それでも町は廻っている

通称"乙丸町"

Soredemo Machi ha Mawatteiru

石黒正数
Ishiguro Masakazu

YOUNG KING COMICS

YOUNG KING COMICS

通称"それ町"

それでも町は回っている

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES

2

石黒正数

ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

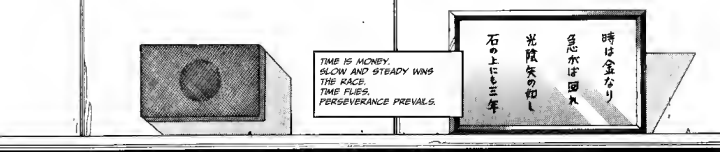
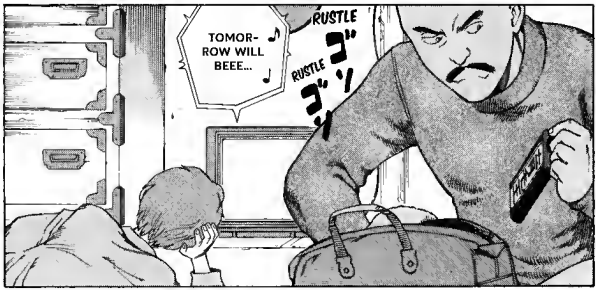


TABLE OF CONTENTS

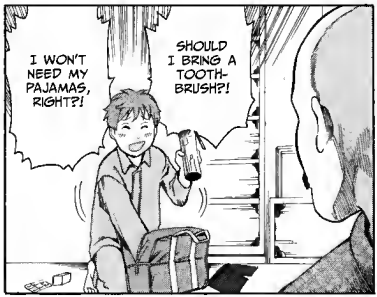
CHAPTER 12	AN INVITATION FROM A SWEET MAIDEN IS A TRAP FROM HELL?!	3
CHAPTER 13	AND YET THE TOWN MOVES (BEFORE)	27
CHAPTER 14	AND YET THE TOWN MOVES (AFTER)	49
CHAPTER 15	ANGEL IN PAJAMAS	71
CHAPTER 16	NIGHT WALKER	89
CHAPTER 17	MAID DELIVERY SERVICE	113
CHAPTER 18	HOLE	141
CHAPTER 19	SUMMER OF JOSEPHINE	165
AFTERWORD		193
EXTRA		194

*THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION.


TOMOR-
ROW WILL
BEEE...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

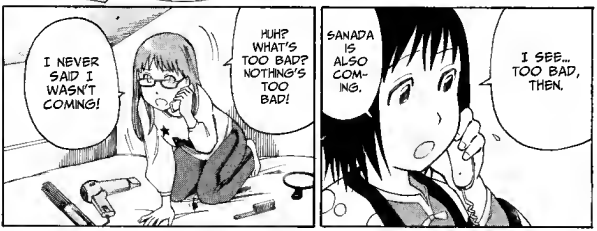
NO WAY.
WHY
WOULD I
GO?
TWO
PEOPLE
HAD TO
CANCEL.
YOU INTER-
ESTED?
THERE'S
A HOT
SPRINGS
TRIP
FOR THE
SHOPPING
DISTRICT
FOLK.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
GETTING
READY TO RUN
AWAY IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT?
YOU'RE
SO
LOUD.
STUFF


I WON'T
NEED MY
PAJAMAS,
RIGHT?!
SHOULD
I BRING A
TOOTH-
BRUSH?!

HOTORI-
CHAN WILL
BE BORED
SINCE
NOBODY
HER AGE
IS GOING.
FIG-
URED
AS
MUCH.
ZIP

I MIND. BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY EXCEPT THE CHIEF MAID AND OUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS.
NOBODY MINDS.
YOU KNOW— I MIGHT WORK IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT, BUT I'M NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.



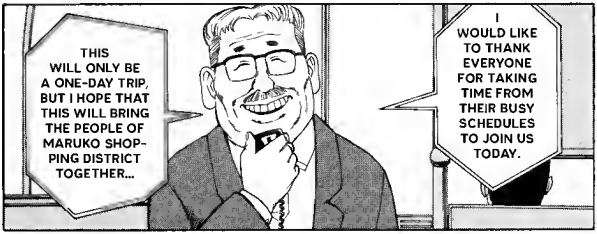
CHAPTER 12

AN INVITATION FROM A SWEET MAIDEN IS A TRAP FROM HELL?!

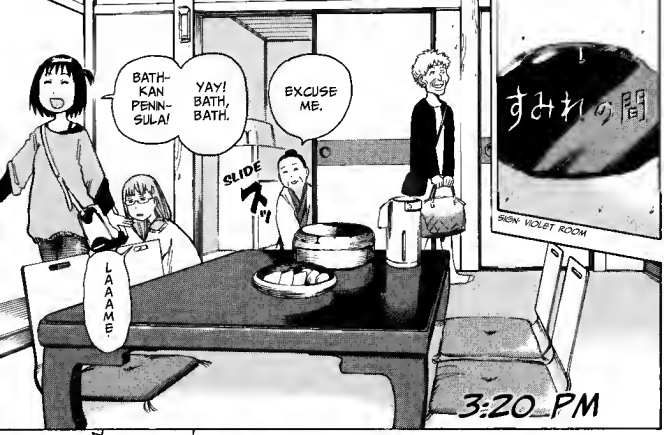
SOREMACHI SUSPENSE THEATER

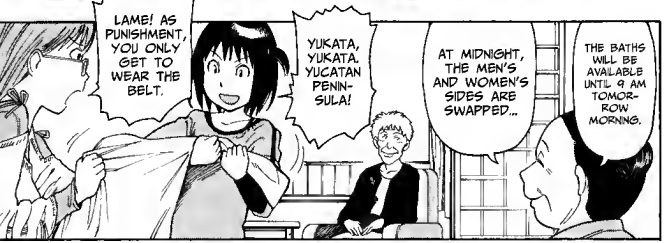
HOT SPRINGS TOUR ☆ SECRET

AN INVITATION FROM A SWEET MAIDEN IS A TRAP FROM HELL?!

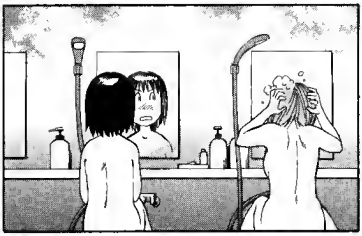

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR TAKING TIME FROM THEIR BUSY SCHEDULES TO JOIN US TODAY.
THIS WILL ONLY BE A ONE-DAY TRIP, BUT I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BRING THE PEOPLE OF MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT TOGETHER...

SIGN: HOT AIR INN
熱風荘
I SAW ON THE NEWS THAT THIS ONE PLACE ADDED STUFF TO THEIR WATER.
THINK THEY DO THAT HERE?
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT...
3:05 PM


すみれの間
SIGN: VIOLET ROOM
EXCUSE ME.
YAY! BATH, BATH.
BATH-KAN PENIN-SULA!
SLIDE
LAAAME
3:20 PM


THE BATHS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 9 AM TOMOR-ROW MORNING.
AT MIDNIGHT, THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SIDES ARE SWAPPED...
YUKATA, YUKATA. YUCATAN PENIN-SULA!
LAME! AS PUNISHMENT, YOU ONLY GET TO WEAR THE BELT.

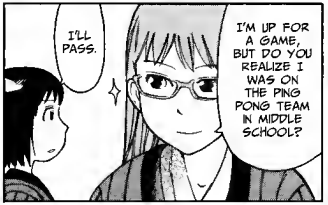
DON'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH. IT'S HEALTHIER TO WAIT AN HOUR BEFORE YOU BATHE.
ARE YOU TALKING TO YOUR GRAND-CHIL-DREN? THEY ALREADY LEFT.
THIS GRANNY'S PRIDE IS IN TATTERS. AND THEY'RE NOT MY GRAND-CHILDREN.



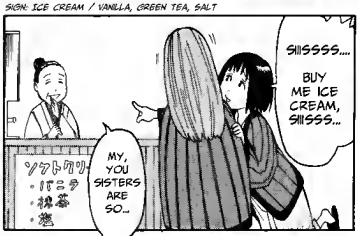
BOTTLE: TRAVEL SHAMPOO

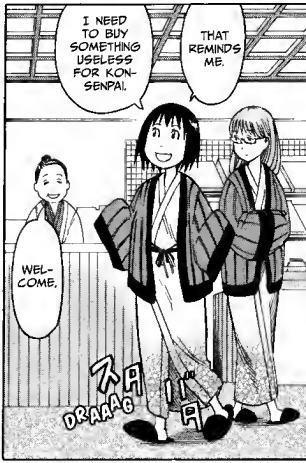
(STRESS)
SQUIRT
WHOA, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS SHAMPOO?! WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BUBBLES?
OH, DEAAAAR! MAYBE THE BUBBLES ARE LEAKING FROM YOUR BRAIN?

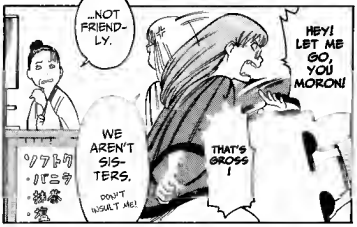
NO. I FORGOT MY CONTACTS, SO I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
HEY, TA-TSUN. LET'S GO TO THE OPEN-AIR BATH. WE CAN SEE THE OCEAN.
NOBODY ELSE IS HERE. WE HAVE THE PLACE TO OUR-SELVES —
SPLISH
SPLASH
SPLISH
I CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE SHRINKAGE. YOU GO AND SHRINK.
ANYWAY, LET'S GO TRY THE SAUNA.
SO BAD THAT, FROM HERE, YOU ACTUALLY LOOK PRETTY.
YOUR EYES ARE THAT BAD?
UM... JUST ONCE, I'M HOPING.
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU WANT TO DIE?
OH, I KNOW! LET'S GO TO THE OPEN-AIR BATH, AND I'LL DESCRIBE EVERYTHING FOR YOU. THEN YOU CAN DESCRIBE HOW EVERYTHING LOOKS ALL BLURRY.

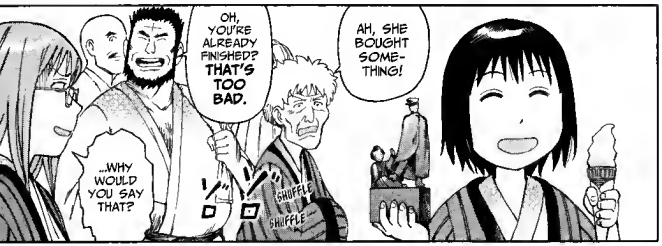


SIGN: ICE CREAM / VANILLA, GREEN TEA, SALT





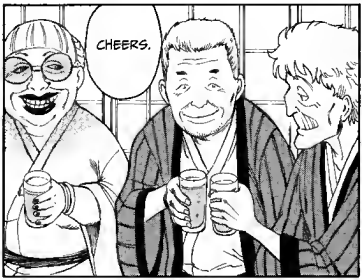



AH, SHE BOUGHT SOME-THING!
OH, YOU'RE ALREADY FINISHED? THAT'S TOO BAD.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
...WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

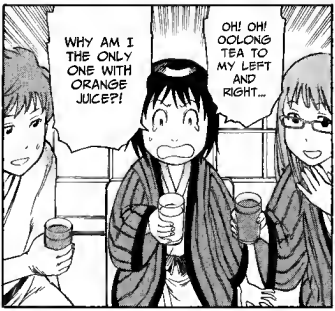
6:15 PM

AWW, SANADA-KUN IS SITTING NEXT TO HOTORI
YUM-MY!

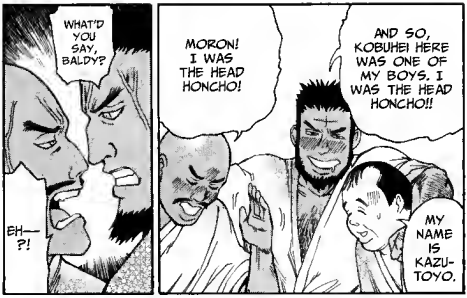
LET'S JUST EAT ALREADY.
TOMORROW, IT'S BACK TO WORKING HARD TO DEFEAT THE SUPERMARKET BY THE STATION!!
TODAY IS FOR ENJOYING THE HOT SPRING AND FOOD.


CHEERS.

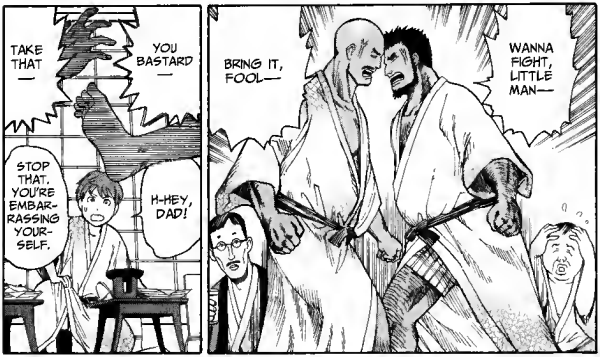
WELL, CHEERS!


WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WITH ORANGE JUICE?!
OH! OH! OOLONG TEA TO MY LEFT AND RIGHT...

CHEERS ...
?!


WHAT'D YOU SAY, BALDY?
EH—?!
MORON! I WAS THE HEAD HONCHO!
AND SO, KOBUHEI HERE WAS ONE OF MY BOYS. I WAS THE HEAD HONCHO!!
MY NAME IS KAZUTOYO.

7:20 PM


TAKE THAT —
YOU BASTARD —
STOP THAT. YOU'RE EMBARRASSING YOURSELF.
H-HEY, DAD!
BRING IT, FOOL—
WANNA FIGHT, LITTLE MAN—

HUH? YOU STILL WANTED THIS?
A-AH!! YOU JUST ATE MY MEAT?!
MOMOSH MOMOSH
もぐ もぐ
CHOMP
ぱく
ひょい
FLIT

WHO GAVE RARASSHI-YAMA ALCOHOL?!!
GYAHA-HAHA!
IT WAS HER.

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT YOUR FOOD ANY-MORE...
S-SORRY... ≷SOB≷....
WHO GAVE ARASHI-YAMA ALCO-HOL?!!

STOP THAT!!
HERE, HAVE SOME MORE.
GUR-GLE!
じゃぼ GLUG
じゃぼ GLUG

H-HEY.
≷SOB≷...
≷SOOOB≷...
≷SOB—≷
ARE YOU OKAY?!
PLOP

I WON'T !!
DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY.

SORRY ABOUT THAT. HERE'S THE KEY.
UGH—
GRAN, I'LL GET HER IN BED.

7:40 PM
RATTLE
ガラリ
THE PERSON WHO ISN'T DRUNK ALWAYS GETS SHAFTED ...
MAAAN...
HEY, YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP WITH A COAT ON?
TAKE IT OFF...
TAKE IT OFF?!
GUMP

I CAN'T TAKE IT OFF. I CAN'T TAKE IT OFF.
BREATHE—
DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY.
I WON'T—
YEAH?
...ER, NOBODY'S THERE.
...THERE?!
NO-BODY'S ...
AAAH! I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT!
IMAGINARY DEFENSE ATTORNEY
BUT I REALLY LIKE HER! I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!!
IMAGINARY PROSECUTOR
ARE YOU TRYING TO JUSTIFY YOUR STALKER-LIKE ACTIONS?!
IMAGINARY JUDGE
THE COURT HAS REACHED A VER-DICT.
THE ACCUSED, SANADA HIROYUKI, IS GUILTY!
TAP

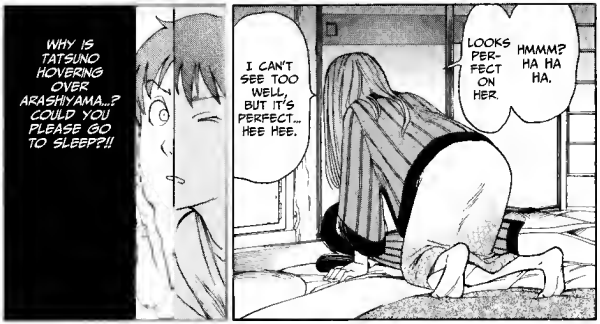
WHEW...
I'LL LEAVE...
ガタッ
RATTLE
バタン
SLAM
I WON'T LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE BEHIND. I DID CARRY HER ALL THE WAY HERE, AND I ALWAYS LET HER COPY MY MATH HOMEWORK.
A KISS... CAN'T HURT, RIGHT?
7:50 PM
AND THEN IT HAPPENED...

HMM?

PERVERT OR FUGITIVE!
NO TIME FOR THAT. ONE WRONG MOVE AND MY LIFE WILL BE OVER.

ALIVE!!
DEAD OR...

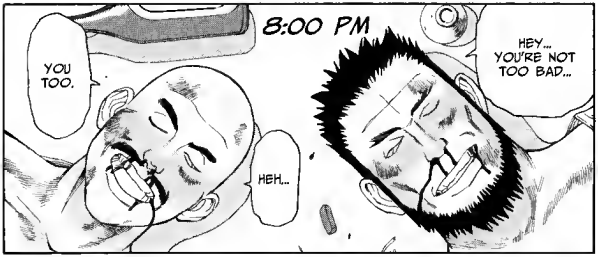
WHY DID I HIDE?! IN THE WORST POSSIBLE PLACE?!
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE AN OLD-SCHOOL MANGA—?!

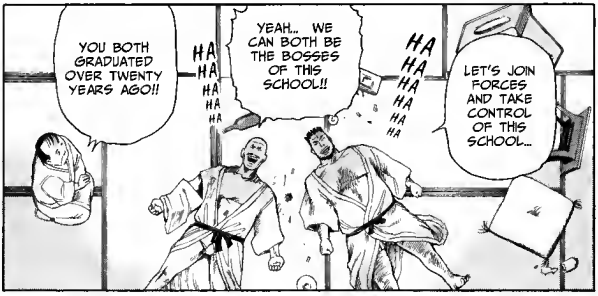

WHY IS TATSUNO HOVERING OVER ARASHIYAMA...? COULD YOU PLEASE GO TO SLEEP?!!
I CAN'T SEE TOO WELL, BUT IT'S PERFECT... HEE HEE.
LOOKS PERFECT ON HER.
HMMM? HA HA HA.

CURSE MY LUCK!! WHY DID SHE HAVE TO SLEEP ON THIS SIDE?!

GAH?!
モゾ
WIGGLE
モゾ
WIGGLE

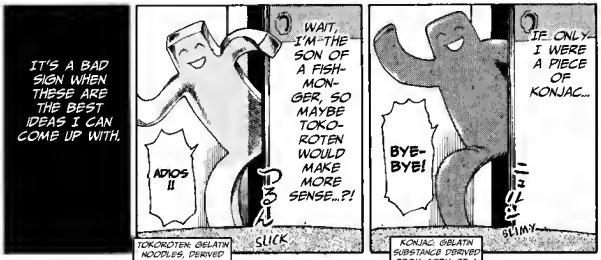
TATSUNO IS SLEEPING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR, SO I CAN NO LONGER ESCAPE, CAPTAIN!
FOOL !!
IMAGINARY CAPTAIN


8:00 PM
YOU TOO.
HEH...
HEY... YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD...


YOU BOTH GRADUATED OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO!!
HA HA HA HA HA
YEAH... WE CAN BOTH BE THE BOSSES OF THIS SCHOOL!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
LET'S JOIN FORCES AND TAKE CONTROL OF THIS SCHOOL...

8:15 PM

IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I'LL ALSO WAKE UP ARASHI-YAMA.
WILL TATSUNO WAKE UP IF I TRY TO SLIP OUT?
HOW MANY HOURS HAS IT BEEN?


IT'S A BAD SIGN WHEN THESE ARE THE BEST IDEAS I CAN COME UP WITH.
WAIT, I'M THE SON OF A FISH-MONGER, SO MAYBE TOKO-ROTEN WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE...?!
ADIOS !!
TOKOROTEN: GELATIN NOODLES, DERIVED FROM SEAWEED.
SLICK
IF ONLY I WERE A PIECE OF KONJAC...
BYE-BYE!
SLIMY...
KONJAC: GELATIN SUBSTANCE DERIVED FROM CORN OF A TROPICAL PLANT.

8:30 PM

AH!!
SO SHE SLEEPS ON HER STOMACH. GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT SLEEPING ON YOUR STOMACH MAKES YOUR BOOBS BIGGER.
I'M GUESSING THAT'S TATSUNO'S BUTT STICKING UP...
CAN'T SEE MUCH...

WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE THIS SOONER? I COULD HAVE ESCAPED AT ANY TIME.
—AND I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE IMITATING ONE OF ARASHI-YAMA'S MYSTERY NOVELS.
THAT WAS WHEN IT HIT ME! THE SCATTER PIECES OF THE PUZZLE FIT INTO PLACE—

※(ALL OF THE NECESSARY HINTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN. HOW WILL SANADA-KUN ESCAPE THIS PERILOUS SITUATION?)

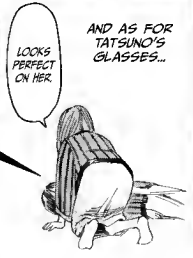
TATSUNO WOULDN'T HAVE SLEPT ON HER STOMACH IF SHE WERE STILL WEARING HER GLASSES, SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SHE WAKES UP—
H-HUH? WHAT?!

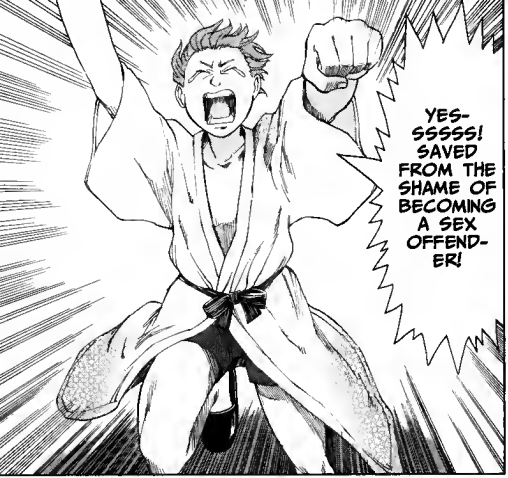
OPEN THE DOOR AND SHOVE TATSUNO ASIDE.
TUG
DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET OUT.
STRUGGLE
SQUIRM
OW, OW, OW!

HUH?
CHIEF MAID? GEEZ— WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CHURRY
SHE WON'T RECOGNIZE ME!

THE INEBRIATED TATSUNO WAS PLACING HER GLASSES ON ARASHIYAMA AS A JOKE!!

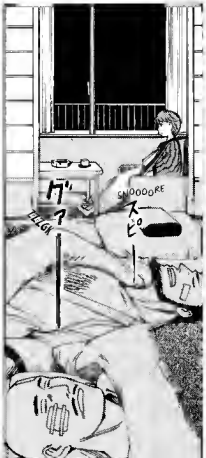

LOOKS PERFECT ON HER.
AND AS FOR TATSUNO'S GLASSES...

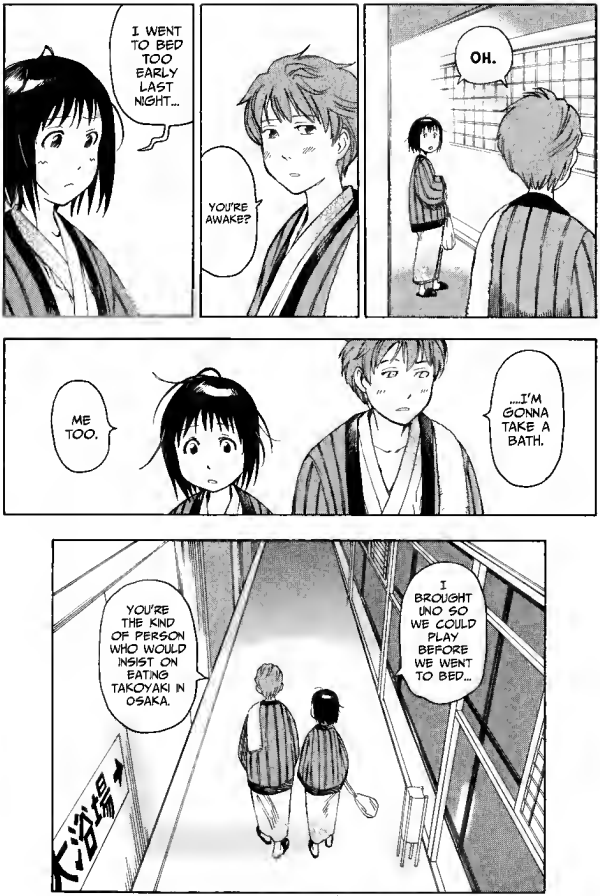

YES-SSSSS! SAVED FROM THE SHAME OF BECOMING A SEX OFFEND-ER!

SHE CAN'T RECOGNIZE ME WHEN SHE'S WEARING PRESCRIPTION GLASSES.
WHAAAA?

4:00 AM
COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP... TOO BUSY.
SIGH...

I'LL TAKE A BATH.


SNOOOORE


I WENT TO BED TOO EARLY LAST NIGHT...
YOU'RE AWAKE?
OH.
...I'M GONNA TAKE A BATH.
ME TOO.
I BROUGHT UNO SO WE COULD PLAY BEFORE WE WENT TO BED...
YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD INSIST ON EATING TAKOYAKI IN OSAKA.
大浴場

CHAPTER 12/END

BLOW
ブォー

NATIONAL MILKER FEDERATION

The 1st Milker Federation Conference

- A Greeting from the new honorable Milker Federation director

I am Arashiyama Hotori, the new Milker director!!
Ladies and gentlemen! I love milk!!
I love anything that goes with milk!!
I like anpan, cookies, bananas, and strawberries!
I insist on further research to improve our enjoyment of milk!
Now, fellow Milkers! Let us drink milk together!!

- Our research has uncovered foods that go surprisingly well with milk:

Arare

Most milkits are considered cookies, but it's always good to buck the trend. Arare and its soy sauce taste can bring out the rich flavor of milk

Shock Factor ★★★★
Compatibility ★★★

Yakisoba

The best milkit ever. There are many foods that go well with milk, but there is no other beverage that goes well with yakisoba.

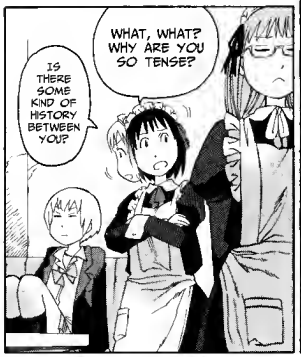
Shock Factor ★★★
Compatibility ★★★★★

MILKER: SOMEONE WHO LOVES MILK / MILKIN: DRINKING MILK / MILKIT: FOOD THAT GOES WELL WITH MILK

SAW
SAW
SAW
HOTORI— CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
HOTORI, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER—
SAW
SAW
SAW
SAW
SAW
SAW
...HEH HEH.
WALKING SHAPER

CHAPTER 13
AND YET THE TOWN MOVES (BEFORE)

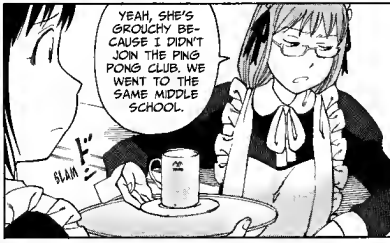
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WORK, HOTORI.
MENU
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
AREN'T YOU IN THE PING PONG CLUB?
YES, GO AHEAD.
PORK CURRY WITHOUT THE PORK AND HOT ICE COFFEE WITHOUT THE ICE.
MENU
...HUH??
IN OTHER WORDS, SHE WANTS CURRY AND COFFEE.
SKIPPED PRAC-TICE.
CAN I ORDER YET?
MENU


WHAT, WHAT? WHY ARE YOU SO TENSE?
IS THERE SOME KIND OF HISTORY BETWEEN YOU?

OH, I'M SO SORRY. BUT I ALSO HAPPEN TO BE A MAID HERE.

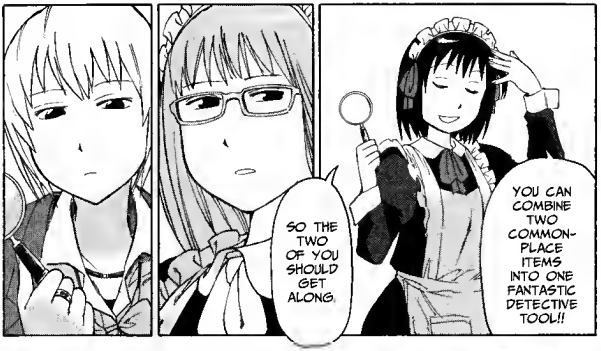
TSK, I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.

I HAVE SOMETHING NICE TO SHOW YOU.
GEEZ, YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT OVER STUPID STUFF.


YEAH, SHE'S GROUCHY BECAUSE I DIDN'T JOIN THE PING PONG CLUB. WE WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SLAM
ドン

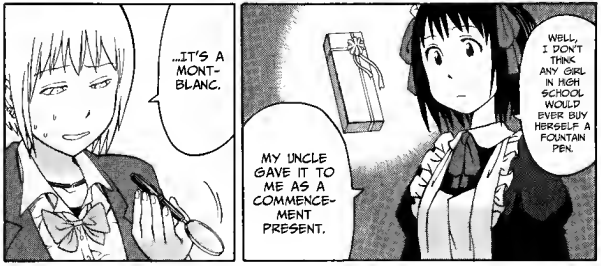
WELL, SHE CAN BEG ALL SHE WANTS, BUT I'M NOT LETTING HER BACK.
SHE RAN AWAY BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T BEAT ME.

MAGNI-FYING PEN!
IT LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY MAGNIFYING GLASS.
BUT!
TA-DA!!
THERE'S A BALL-POINT PEN ON THE OTHER SIDE!!
FOUN-TAIN PEN.
THAT'S A FOUN-TAIN PEN!
IT'S HEAVY, BUT YOU CAN WRITE WITH IT.
SCRITCH SCRATCH
Stupid Kon-senpai

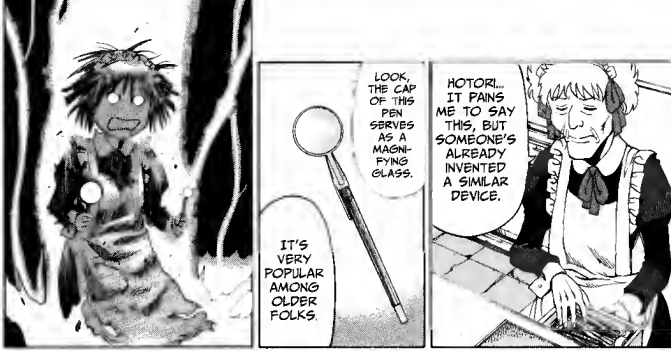


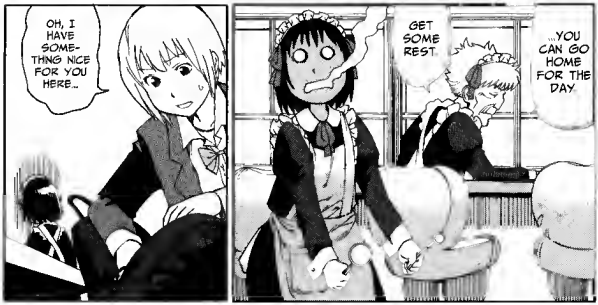
...HUH? THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A TOUCHING STORY, LIKE MORI MOTO-NARI'S TALE OF THREE ARROWS ...
BUT THERE'S NO RE-ACTION.
YOU DIDN'T BUY THIS PEN YOUR-SELF, DID YOU?

THREE ARROWS: THE LESSON OF HOW A SINGLE ARROW IS EASILY BROKEN, BUT THREE BUNDLED TOGETHER ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK.


WELL, I DON'T THINK ANY GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL WOULD EVER BUY HERSELF A FOUNTAIN PEN.
MY UNCLE GAVE IT TO ME AS A COMMENCE-MENT PRESENT.
...IT'S A MONT-BLANC.

ビカーSHING
YOU BET!! ISN'T IT SPECIAL?
I CUT OFF THE TOP OF THE PEN AND USED SUPER GLUE TO ATTACH THE MAGNIFYING GLASS—!
NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT WE DON'T OFFER MONT BLANC. THOUGH WE DO OFFER COFFEE JELLY.
...DID YOU MODIFY THE PEN?
IF YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING, THEN IT'S OKAY...
...BUT MONT-BLANC PENS ARE EXPEN-SIVE.
HUH?!
ONE OF THOSE COSTS TEN THOUSAND YEN, I THINK.
ROUGHLY $100


LOOK, THE CAP OF THIS PEN SERVES AS A MAGNI-FYING GLASS.
IT'S VERY POPULAR AMONG OLDER FOLKS.
HOTORI... IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS, BUT SOMEONE'S ALREADY INVENTED A SIMILAR DEVICE.

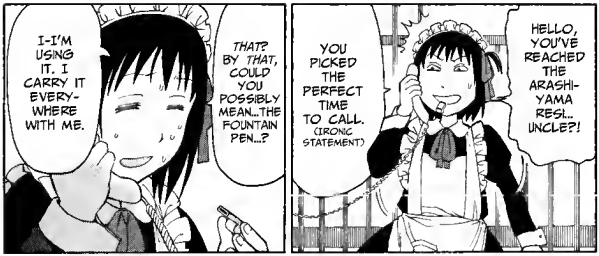

OH, I HAVE SOME-THING NICE FOR YOU HERE...
GET SOME REST.
...YOU CAN GO HOME FOR THE DAY.

HERE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS WHISTLE! CHEER UP.
FOUND IT!!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHANGE FIRST?!
KOBBLE
KOBBLE
ISN'T THAT THE WRONG DIRECTION?!
PWEEEE

SO THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE LOSES THEIR HAVEN...
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A SAD ATTEMPT AT DOWSING.
SHE MUST BE SEARCHING FOR A FLICKER OF HOPE IN THIS DARK WORLD.

BYO-BYOU-BYO (I'M HOME)
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
RIIIIING
DUM?


I-I'M USING IT. I CARRY IT EVERY-WHERE WITH ME.
THAT? BY THAT, COULD YOU POSSIBLY MEAN...THE FOUNTAIN PEN...?
YOU PICKED THE PERFECT TIME TO CALL. (IRONIC STATEMENT)
HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED THE ARASHI-YAMA RESI... UNCLE?!

MOM, YOU HAVE A CALL FROM THE AYA-TORIS...
OKAY, OKAY AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING?
YES... RIGHT, THANK YOU.
A HUNDRED THOU-SA..?!!
SLAM
THUD
I'M... HOLDING IT... AS WE SPEAK...
BY THE WAY, DID THIS COST TEN THOUSAND YEN?

ROUGHLY ¥1000 ROUGHLY ¥100

I SHOULD BE POSITIVE AND FOCUS ON HOW I CAN TRICK UNCLE THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM.
TRICK... TRICK... MYSTERY... NOVEL... ...IS SHIMABE HIROTO'S NEW BOOK OUT YET? WAS THERE ANY INFORMATION IN THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY ILLUSTRATED?
SNAP
FLIP FLIP
OH! THAT'S IT!!
BOUNCE
THIS IS IT!!
TH—
TH—
MYSTERY ILLUSTRATED NOVEL PRIZE
LONG STORY
GRAND PRIZE ¥500,000 COMPUTER
HONORABLE MENTION (~1,000 RECIPIENTS) ¥200,000 LAPTOP
SHORT STORY
GRAND PRIZE ¥200,000 COMPUTER
HONORABLE MENTION (~1,000 RECIPIENTS) ¥100,000 LAPTOP

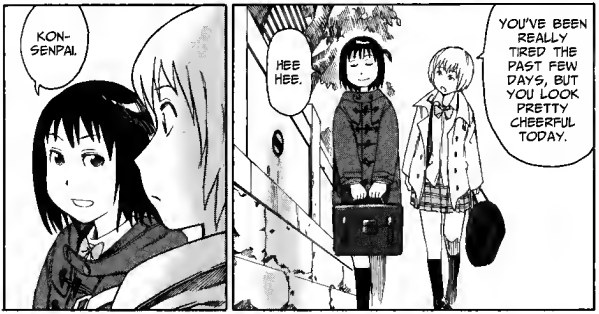
SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WRITE A MYSTERY STORY AND WIN THE PRIZE MONEY!!
BUT THE RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED IN THREE MONTHS... JUST IN TIME!!
UGH, THE DEADLINE IS SOON. ...YIKES.
MAGAZINE: MONTHLY MYSTERY ILLUSTRATED
I CAN DO THIS... I CAN BUY A FOUNTAIN PEN BEFORE SUMMER!!
HEH HEH
WHAT IF I TAKE GRAND PRIZE?

Writing. Do not disturb
Snacks are welcome

I WAS STANDING ON THE DECK OF THE FERRY AND EATING JELLY. I NEVER EXPECTED SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN.
I'VE HEARD THAT THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A JELLY MONSTER. I'M SCARED.
SO THAT'S JELLY ISLAND, FAMOUS FOR ITS JELLY.
I CAN SEE JELLY ISLAND.
SHE MIGHT BE THE JELLY-MAN.
I LIKE STRAW-BERRY JELLY.
PLEASE, HAVE SOME JELLY.
WELCOME, EVERYONE. I AM THE LORD OF JELLY ISLAND.
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!
KYAAA!
YES, JELLY ISLAND'S JELLY IS DELICIOUS.
THIS JELLY IS GOOD.
もぐもぐ
GULP GULP

SHE'S BEEN DECAPI-TATED!!
THE STORY ABOUT THE JELLY-MAN WAS TRUE!!
THIS IS AWFUL!!
IT'S TERRIBLE!! TATSUNO-SAN IS DEAD!
I'M GOING TO HIDE BY MY-SELF!!
I CAN'T TRUST YOU PEOPLE!!
THE KILLER IS THE JELLY-MAN!!
BUT WHAT IF ONE OF US IS THE KILLER?!
EVERY-ONE, STAY TO-GETHER!!
KON-SENPAI'S BEEN MUR-DERED!!
THAT'S KON-SENPAI'S VOICE!!
AGAAAAH!
YOU ARE THE KILL-ER!!
I WAS WONDERING WHY THE BODY OF THE FIRST VICTIM, TATSUNO-SAN, HAD DISAPPEARED. IN REALITY, IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND!!
WE KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS NOW.

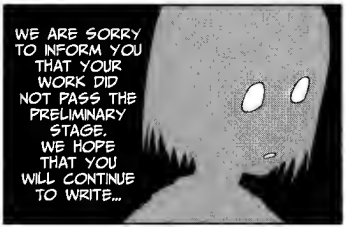
KON-SEN-PAI!!
SHE'S ALREADY DEAD.
THIS RED LIQUID IS STRAW-BERRY JELLY, NOT BLOOD.
LICK
ペロ
LOOK. SHE BURIED HERSELF UNDER GROUND!!
ONLY ONE PERSON WAS MUR-DERED!!
すぽ
POP
CURSE YOU— I KILLED HER BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T JOIN THE PING PONG CLUB!!
NOW, I'LL NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME TO THE STATION.
EXCELLENT WORK AGAIN, ARASHIYAMA-KUN.
DETECTIVE MORIAKI
IT WAS A TERRIBLE CASE. BUT I SUPPOSE THAT KON-SENPAI WAS ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE MONSTER THAT WE CALL SOCIETY...
THE END



BOOKS: JELLY ISLAND

AFTER I'M FAMOUS, I'LL STILL HANG OUT WITH YOU.
PAT
ポン
...HUH?
LINE UP AND BOW BEFORE ME.
MAESTRO ARAGHI-YAMA!! PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR AUTO-GRAPH!
WHEN WILL YOUR NEXT BOOK COME OUT?!

HOWEVER, ONE WEEK LATER...



N—
NO—

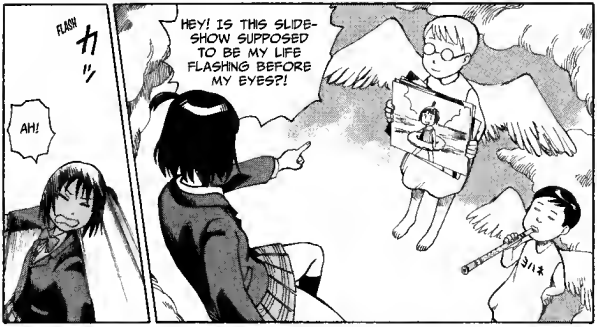
I SPENT TWO WEEKS WRITING THAT!
NO WAY—!
HOW CRUEL CAN YOU BE—?!

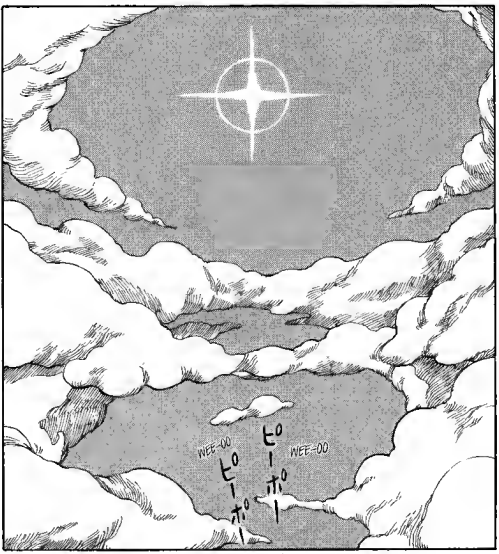
WHOA—!

SCREECH
CLANG
MRR ...
C-CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!!
IS SHE OKAY?!
HEY!! YOUNG LADY!!
SLAM
SORRY ABOUT SITTING OUT IN THE ROAD LIKE THAT... I THINK I'M OKAY.

HUH?
?
WAIT, WE SHOULDN'T MOVE HER.
I JUST CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE!
HEY, I CAN SEE THROUGH MY HAND!
DOES THIS MEAN..
...
I'M IN TROUBLE?
WHOA! WHOA- WHOA!
NOW I'M FLOATING —!!

FLASH
ピカー
HEY!! THIS ISN'T FUNNY!!
STRUGGLE
モガ"
STRUGGLE
モガ"
SHIRT: MARCO
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING—!!
WHO ARE YOU KIDS?!!
SHOO! SHOO!
マルコ
SHIRT: JOHANNES
プー
TWEET
IF YOU'RE GONNA DO SUCH A HALF-ASSED JOB, WHY NOT LET ME GO BACK?!
ヨハネ
LET ME GO BACK DOWN!
HEY, STOP IT! JUST WAIT!
マルコ





CHAPTER 13/END

CHAPTER-14
AND YET THE TOWN MOVES (AFTER)

IF YOUR HEART IS LIGHTER THAN THIS FEATHER, YOU'LL GO TO HEAVEN. OTHERWISE, YOU GO TO HELL.
PLACE YOUR HEART ON THIS SCALE.

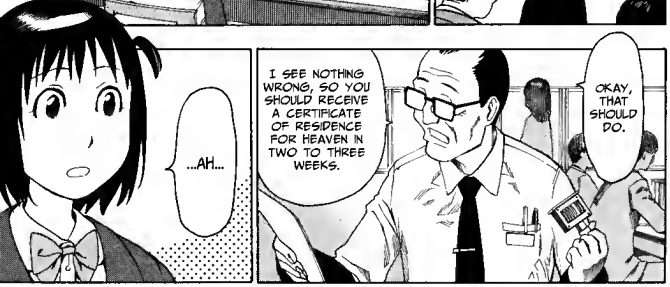
WHOOSH
CAN'T YOU USE SOMETHING MORE APPROPRIATE?!

RAGE
HOW IS A HEART SUPPOSED TO BE LIGHTER THAN A FEATHER?!

WHOA—! THE SACRED FEATHER!!
LIKE A CAN OF COFFEE?

WAIT, BASTARD! I'M SENDING HER STRAIGHT TO HELL!!
HUH?
YOU ALMOST CAUSED AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! YOU SHOULD BE IN THE JAPANESE LINE!!

DEATH ROW
PLEASE WAIT QUIETLY UNTIL YOUR NAME IS CALLED.
死亡者受付
呼び出しがあるまで静にお待ち下さい
ARASHIYAMA-SAN. ARASHIYAMA HOTORI-SAN.
YES.
HMM, LET'S SEE...
CAUSE OF DEATH: ACCIDENT... NO PAST HISTORY...

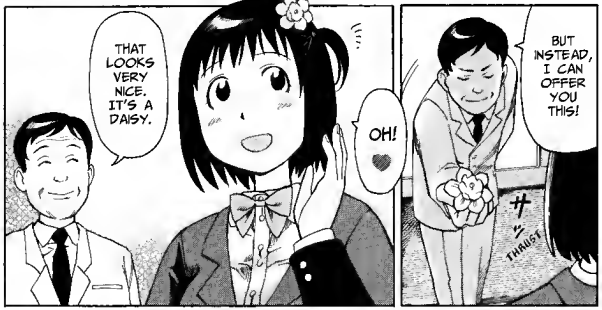

...AH...
I SEE NOTHING WRONG, SO YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCE FOR HEAVEN IN TWO TO THREE WEEKS.
OKAY, THAT SHOULD DO.

SLIIDE
スススッ
SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
I'M IN CHARGE OF SHOWING NEW PEOPLE AROUND THE PLACE, SO PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

THIS IS LIKE AN ORDINARY OFFICE.
THE EGYPTIAN ONE HAD MORE ATMOSPHERE.
JAPAN SUCKS.

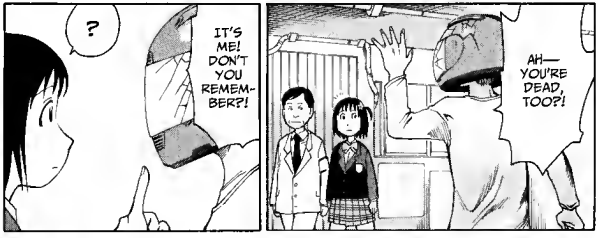
IS THIS REALLY THE AFTER-LIFE? IT'S NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.
SHOULDN'T THERE BE HALOS OR GHOST BANDANAS?
THAT PRACTICE WAS ABOLISHED IN THE SHOWA PERIOD.
HUH.
TO SAVE MONEY.

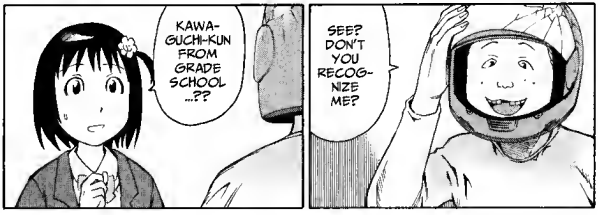
SHOWA PERIOD: 1926-1989

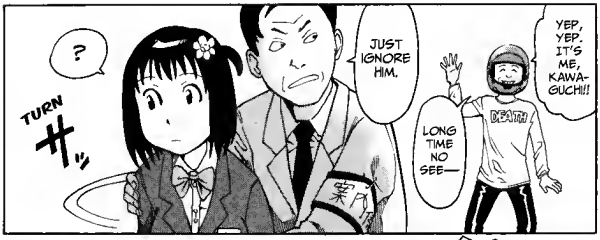


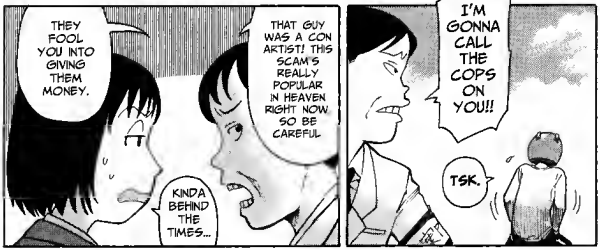
'CAUSE YOU'RE PUSHING THEM UP!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THAT JOKE! WELL? WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
MY NERVES ARE KINDA SHOT SINCE I JUST DIED, SO COULD YOU BE A LITTLE NICER?!
PANT PANT

THERE'S SOMEWHERE I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU FIRST...
天国 21区
HEAVEN 21ST DISTRICT
ホタテ
SCALLOPS
RAINBOW DISCS
MAID CAFE
HEAVEN'S BEST YAKISOBA!


?
IT'S ME! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?!
AH— YOU'RE DEAD, TOO?!


KAWAGUCHI-KUN FROM GRADE SCHOOL ...??
SEE? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

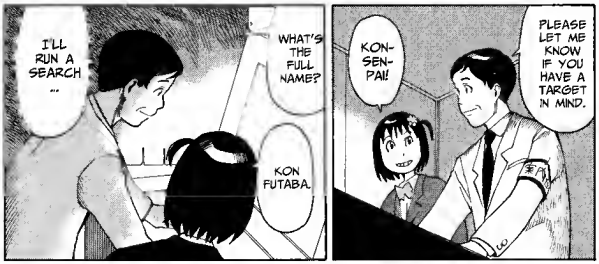

TURN
?
JUST IGNORE HIM.
YEP, YEP. IT'S ME, KAWAGUCHI!!
LONG TIME NO SEE—
DEATH

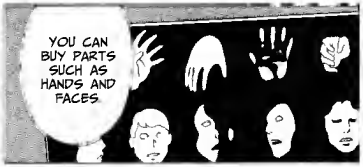

THEY FOOL YOU INTO GIVING THEM MONEY.
KINDA BEHIND THE TIMES...
THAT GUY WAS A CON ARTIST! THIS SCAM'S REALLY POPULAR IN HEAVEN RIGHT NOW. SO BE CAREFUL
I'M GONNA CALL THE COPS ON YOU!!
TSK.

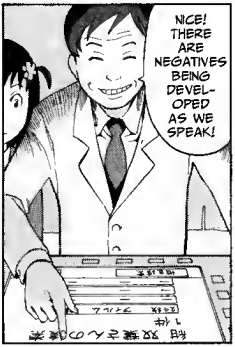
WELL, THE PEOPLE ON THE SURFACE HAVE THEIR OWN CONCEPT OF DEATH, SO THAT'S WHY IT SEEMS DIFFERENT TO YOU.
I DON'T FEEL VERY DEAD.
THERE'S MONEY IN HEAVEN?
OF COURSE. NOTICE HOW I'M WORKING?
SHRIMP BUNS
COMET APARTMENTS
USED ELECTRONICS
THE SEVEN THREE MUSKETEERS
UNDER-WEAR
BOXED LUNCHES

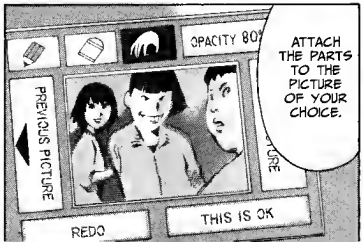
場技遊
RECREATION CENTER FOR RICH KIDS, DADS, AND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE ONE CAN ENGAGE IN SURFACE ENTERTAINMENT.
WHAT'S THIS? AN ARCADE?
SMART BALL

PURIKURA: SHORT FOR PRINT CLUB, A PHOTO BOOTH.

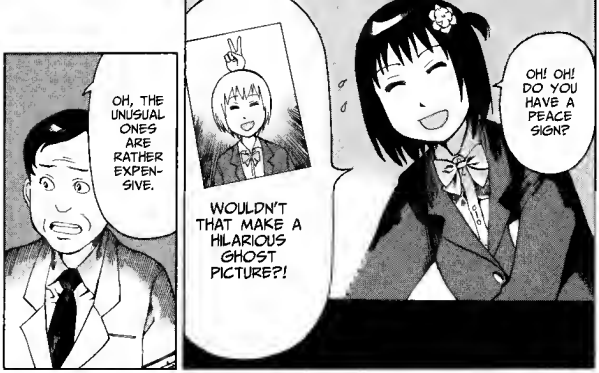


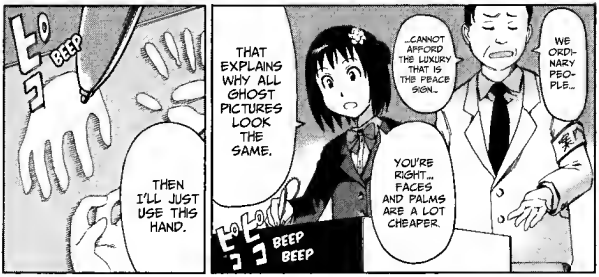


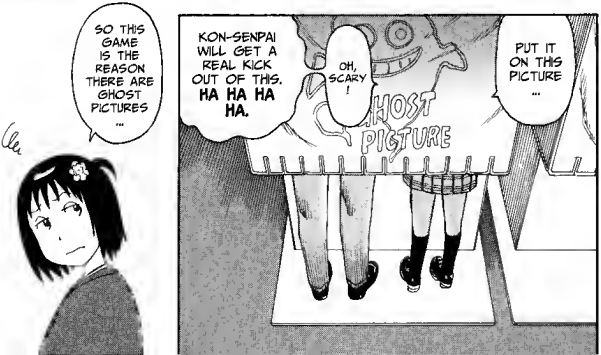


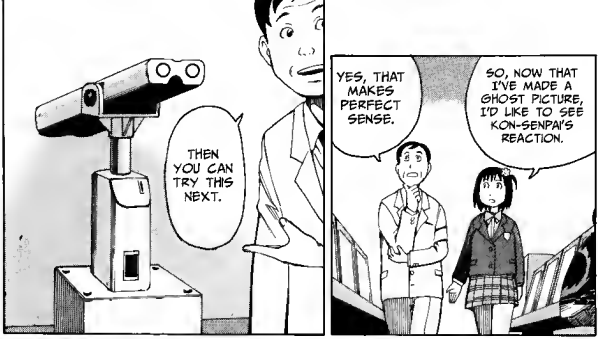


SCREEN: SEARCHING FOR KON FUTABA-CHAN / 1 RESULT

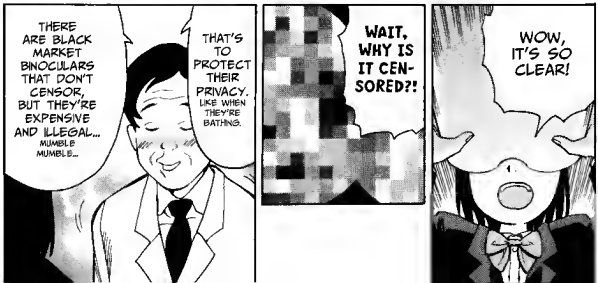

OH, THE UNUSUAL ONES ARE RATHER EXPENSIVE.
WOULDN'T THAT MAKE A HILARIOUS GHOST PICTURE?!
OH! OH! DO YOU HAVE A PEACE SIGN?

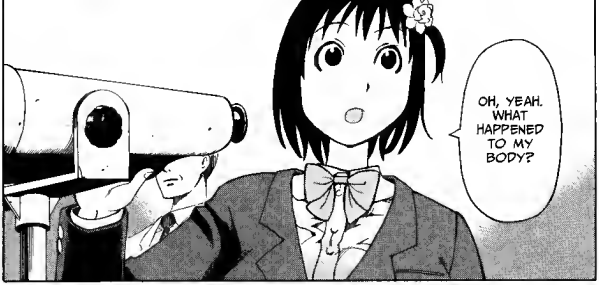

BEEP
THEN I'LL JUST USE THIS HAND.
THAT EXPLAINS WHY ALL GHOST PICTURES LOOK THE SAME.
BEEP BEEP
YOU'RE RIGHT... FACES AND PALMS ARE A LOT CHEAPER.
..CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY THAT IS THE PEACE SIGN..
WE ORDINARY PEOPLE...


SO THIS GAME IS THE REASON THERE ARE GHOST PICTURES ...
KON-SENPAI WILL GET A REAL KICK OUT OF THIS. HA HA HA HA.
OH, SCARY !
GHOST PICTURE
PUT IT ON THIS PICTURE ...


THEN YOU CAN TRY THIS NEXT.
YES, THAT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.
SO, NOW THAT I'VE MADE A GHOST PICTURE, I'D LIKE TO SEE KON-SENPAI'S REACTION.

FLASH
カミーヤ
OH, I CAN SEE.
IF YOU INSERT 100 YEN, YOU CAN SEE THE SURFACE WORLD.
I SEE. I GUESS HEAVEN ISN'T PERFECT.
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHEN YOUR KON-SENPAI WILL LOOK AT THE PICTURE. SO YOU MIGHT MISS IT.


THERE ARE BLACK MARKET BINOCULARS THAT DON'T CENSOR, BUT THEY'RE EXPENSIVE AND ILLEGAL...
MUMBLE MUMBLE...
THAT'S TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY. LIKE WHEN THEY'RE BATHING.
WAIT, WHY IS IT CENSORED?!
WOW, IT'S SO CLEAR!



BUILDING: MARUKO HOSPITAL

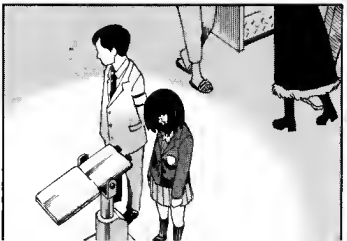
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! PLEASE, DO SOMETHING TO HELP HER!!
AH! WHERE'S DAD GOING?
GOD, PLEASE GIVE HOTORI BACK TO US!
SHE'S ONLY BEEN IN THIS WORLD FOR 16 YEARS!!
AHA-HA-HA...
I DON'T THINK THEY'VE EVER BEEN THIS WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I GUESS I'LL NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE...

...
AH.
I...
SEE.
I HAVE
NO
FUTURE.
HA
HA.

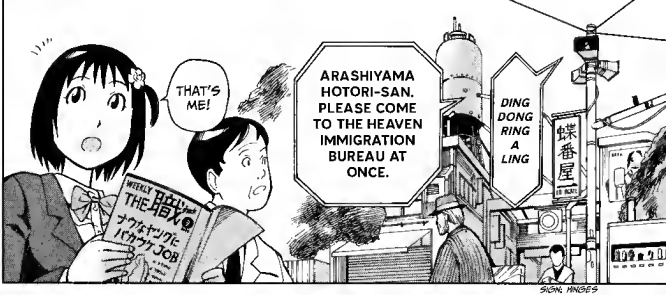
NO FUTURE ...

I WANTED TO LIVE A LITTLE LONGER

I WANT-ED...
...TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH EVERY-ONE.



YOU SHOULD FEEL FORTU-NATE.
THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE SURFACE WHO CHOOSE TO END THEIR OWN LIVES.
ポン
PAT
AND HEAVEN ISN'T THAT BAD.
...THAT'S TRUE
AS LONG AS YOUR FRIENDS WORK HARD, YOU'LL BE SEEING THEM VERY SOON.
THEN I SHOULD WORK HARD IN HEAVEN...
...SO I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE A BUNCH OF PEACE SIGN GHOST PICTURES.
NOW THEN, I'LL HELP YOU FIND A JOB.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SO YOU COULD DRESS UP AS AN ANGEL AND WELCOME THE DEAD.
OHH... THAT...
THAT'S WHAT MY SON DOES.


THAT'S ME!
WEEKLY
THE JAB
ARASHIYAMA HOTORI-SAN. PLEASE COME TO THE HEAVEN IMMIGRATION BUREAU AT ONCE.
DING DONG RING A LING
蝶番屋
SIGH. HINGES

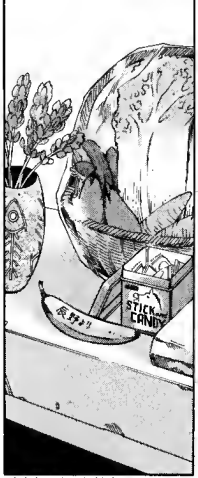
I CAN GO BACK ??!
WHAT ?!!

AND YOUR BRAIN MADE A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY, SO YOU'RE FREE TO RETURN.
..YOUR BODY ON THE SURFACE WAS MORE OR LESS UNHARMED, YES?
YES... THAT'S RIGHT. IT APPEARS THAT...

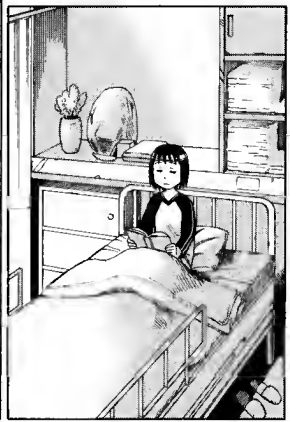
SORRY THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE GOING BACK...
ONCE I'M ALIVE AGAIN, I'LL GO VISIT YOUR GRAVE!!
THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN MYSELF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO GO BACK TO LIFE.
OH... THEN I HOPE I GET TO SEE YOU WHEN I COME BACK.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR MEMORIES OF HEAVEN.
TUG
グイ
YOU SHOULD BE ON YOUR WAY, THEN.

ARMBAND: GUIDE

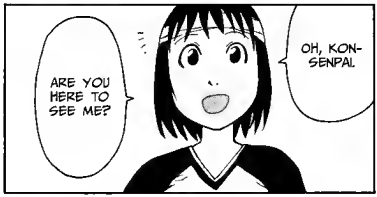
...?
.....
...I HAD A WEIRD DREAM...
ぱち
OPEN
DOCTOR! ARASHI-YAMA-SAN IS AWAKE!
D-DOC-TOR!
WHAT'S THIS?! SOME KIND OF PRANK?!
JERK
かぱっ

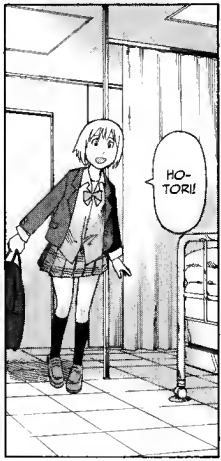


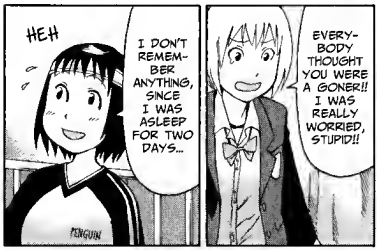
BANANA: FROM TATSUNO



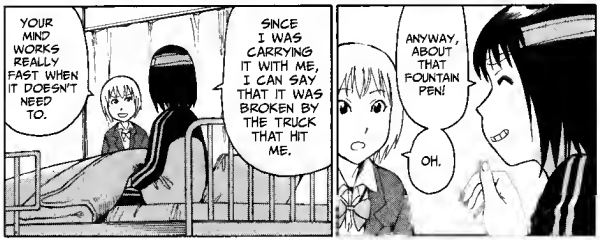
BUILDING: MARUKO HOSPITAL



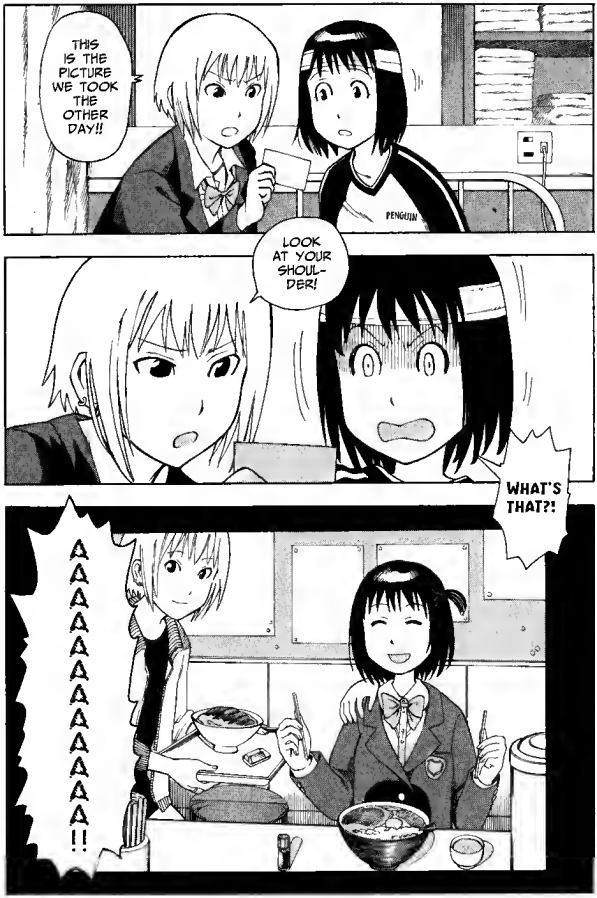



EVERY-BODY THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER!! I WAS REALLY WORRIED, STUPID!!
I DON'T REMEM-BER ANYTHING, SINCE I WAS ASLEEP FOR TWO DAYS...
HEH
PENGUIN

DAD SAID THAT I WOKE UP AFTER HE PUT 3,400 YEN IN THE OFFERING BOX AT THE SHRINE...
SO I'M WORTH 3,400 YEN. GEEZ...
SOUNDS RIGHT TO ME.


ANYWAY, ABOUT THAT FOUNTAIN PEN!
OH.
SINCE I WAS CARRYING IT WITH ME, I CAN SAY THAT IT WAS BROKEN BY THE TRUCK THAT HIT ME.
YOUR MIND WORKS REALLY FAST WHEN IT DOESN'T NEED TO.

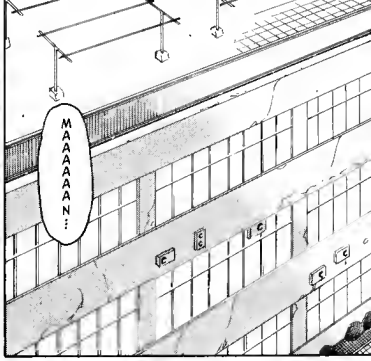
YOU KNOW ...
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS ACCIDENT HAPPENED...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE POSSESSED BY SOMETHING EVIL.
HUH? HA HA HA HA! WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
WELL, JUST LOOK AT THIS!


THIS IS THE PICTURE WE TOOK THE OTHER DAY!!
PENGUIN
LOOK AT YOUR SHOULDER!
WHAT'S THAT?!
AAAAAAAAAAAA!!

CHAPTER 15

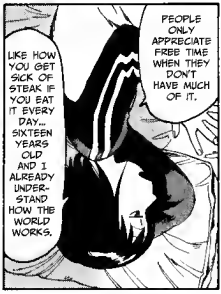
ANGEL IN PAJAMAS

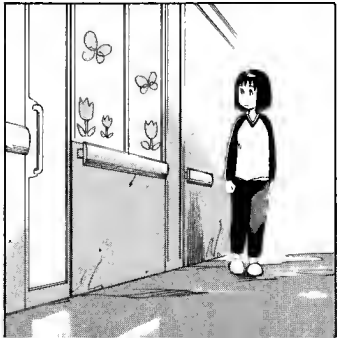
I'M SICK OF THIS HOSPI-TAL.
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS ALREADY
PENGUIN


MAAAAAAN...

I'LL WRITE IT DOWN IN CASE I NEED TO USE IT AGAIN... "LIKE HOW YOU GET SICK IF YOU EAT STEAK EVERY DAY..."
I LIKED THAT META-PHOR!

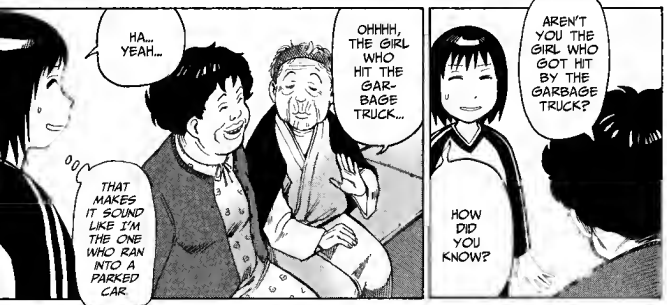
HUH!

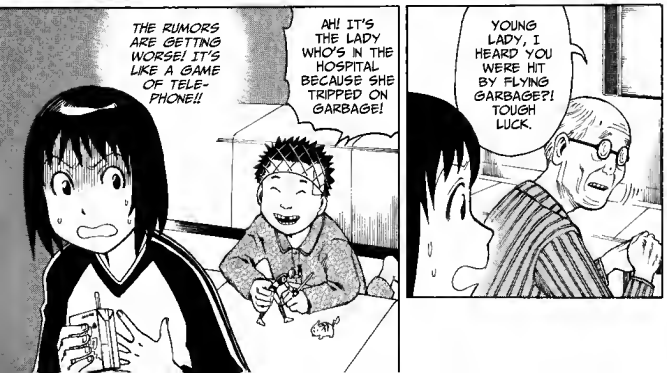

LIKE HOW YOU GET SICK OF STEAK IF YOU EAT IT EVERY DAY... SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND I ALREADY UNDER-STAND HOW THE WORLD WORKS.
PEOPLE ONLY APPRECIATE FREE TIME WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH OF IT.



THIS MUST BE HOW IT FEELS TO BE OLD.
GUESS I'LL GO TO THE LOUNGE AND WATCH MORNING SOAPS.

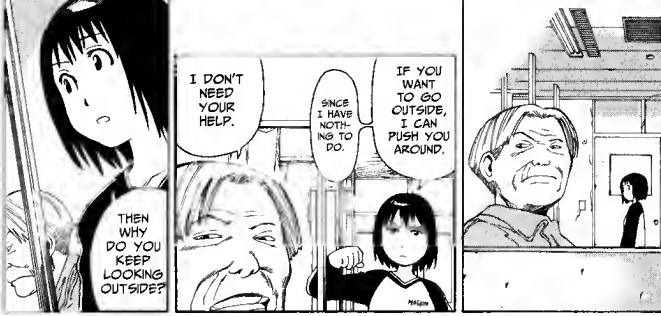
じるる
SLURP SLURP
PENGUIN
OH, HEY!
HMM?
CLUNK
デデ
BOX: CHESTNUT MILK


HA... YEAH...
OHHHH, THE GIRL WHO HIT THE GAR-BAGE TRUCK...
THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I'M THE ONE WHO RAN INTO A PARKED CAR.
AREN'T YOU THE GIRL WHO GOT HIT BY THE GARBAGE TRUCK?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?


THE RUMORS ARE GETTING WORSE! IT'S LIKE A GAME OF TELE-PHONE!!
AH! IT'S THE LADY WHO'S IN THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE SHE TRIPPED ON GARBAGE!
YOUNG LADY, I HEARD YOU WERE HIT BY FLYING GARBAGE?! TOUGH LUCK.

WH-WHAT WAS THAT?!
HMPH... FOOLISH GIRL.
OH, IT'S TIME.
SQUEAK
キィコ
I AM NOT A FOOLISH GIRL!
THAT STORY ABOUT ME TRIPPING ON GARBAGE IS A LIE!!
YOU SHOULD JUST IGNORE HIM.
PENGUIN
WAIT UP, GRAMPS!
BECAUSE I'M STUPID.
EHEHEH. I TRIPPED ON GARBAGE AND ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL.
HUH...? IT'S A LIE?
...BUT THEN HIS LEGS WERE PARALYZED. THAT'S WHY HE'S SO GROUCHY.
THAT OLD MAN WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN ENJOYING HIS RETIREMENT...

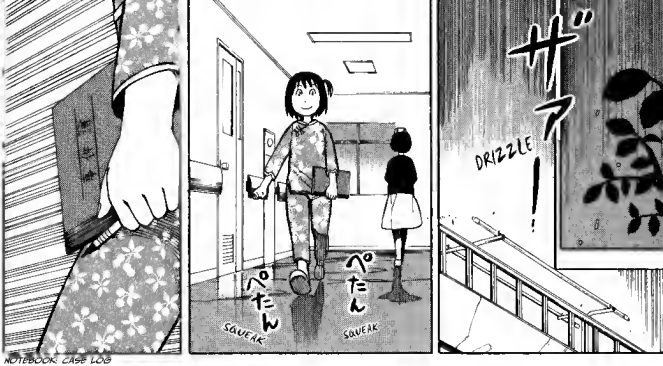
ARGH! FIVE CENTI-METERS SHORT?
CLICK
ガチャ
DON'T EXPECT ANY-THING IN RETURN FOR BEING NICE TO ME.
I'M JUST WAITING TO DIE.
THAT OLD MAN REALLY IS A GROUCH.
PENGUIN
GLARE

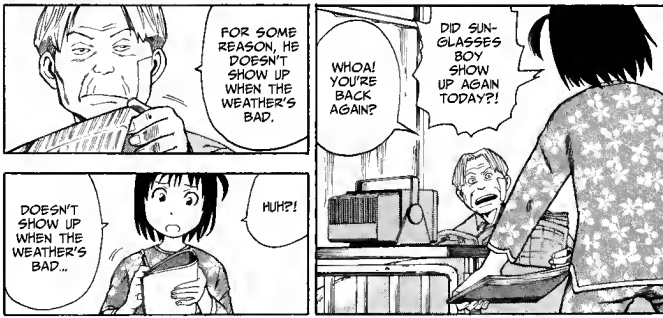

IF YOU WANT TO GO OUTSIDE, I CAN PUSH YOU AROUND.
SINCE I HAVE NOTHING TO DO.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
THEN WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKING OUTSIDE?

THERE'S SOMEONE REALLY SUSPICIOUS IN THE COURTYARD!!
?!

A-A THIEF!
A MEDICINE THIEF!! (I BET)
GYAA!
YOU'RE WRONG! STOP MAKING A FUSS!!
ずい
TUG

SO.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT HE ISN'T A THIEF?
IF YOU'D DONE IT ON PURPOSE, I WOULD HAVE BEATEN YOU TO A PULP.
THAT WASN'T ON PUR-POSE.
...SOR-RY.
HE WOULDN'T BE ALONE IN THE COURT-YARD IF HE WAS.
IS HE BLIND, THEN?
HE'S WEARING THOSE PAJAMAS... HE'S OBVIOUSLY A PATIENT.
ODDLY ENOUGH, HE GOES TO THE SAME SPOT AT THE SAME TIME EVERY DAY AND SQUATS FOR 15 MINUTES BEFORE LEAVING.
WHA-AAAT —?!
THIS GUY'S SHARP ...!


NOTEBOOK CASE LOG
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
ペたん
ペたん
ザー!
DRIZZLE

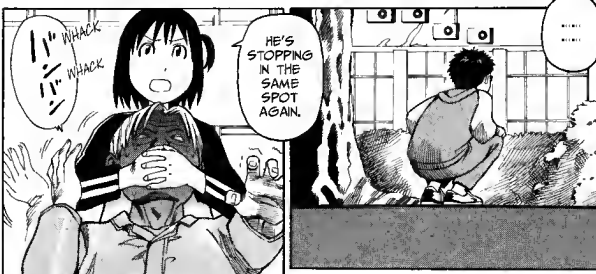

FOR SOME REASON, HE DOESN'T SHOW UP WHEN THE WEATHER'S BAD.
WHOA! YOU'RE BACK AGAIN?
DID SUNGLASSES BOY SHOW UP AGAIN TODAY?!
DOESN'T SHOW UP WHEN THE WEATHER'S BAD...
HUH?!

I'M ONLY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TWO MORE DAYS..
WILL I BE ABLE TO UNCOVER HIS IDENTITY ...?
WHAT?! YOU'RE TRYING TO ROB ME OF ONE OF MY FEW SOURCES OF ENTERTAINMENT?!

IF YOU'RE THAT BORED, WHY DON'T YOU TRY, YOU KNOW...
UH—
DE-HABILI-TATE ...?
DE... DEBILI-TATE ??
REHA-BILITA-TION.
THAT!
THEN, ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, YOU CAN COME VISIT MY CAFE.
I'M NOT WASTING WHAT LITTLE TIME I HAVE LEFT ON REHA-BILITATION!
I'M GOING TO DIE WITHOUT EXPENDING ANOTHER OUNCE OF EFFORT.
THERE'S AN OLD MAID WHO MAKES GOOD COFFEE.
GOOD GRIEF.
I'LL START MY INVESTI-GATION TOMOR-ROW, ONCE THE RAIN STOPS.

IT'S ALMOST TIME. WILL HE COME TODAY?
WELL, THE WEATHER'S NICE.

SHH! PIPE DOWN!!
HERE HE COMES !!
MMFH!

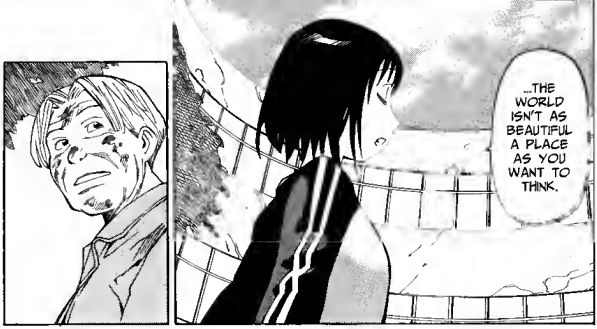

WHACK WHACK
HE'S STOPPING IN THE SAME SPOT AGAIN.

!
I SAID "SHH"!!
WHAT IF I HAD SUFFOCATED, BOZO?!
AW, MAN! HE NOTICED US!
AND HE'S RUNNING AWAY...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, GRAMPS!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT'S MY FAULT?!
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME DO?!

ROLL
I SEE HOW IT IS. DAMN IT ALL!
ROLL
DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH
OKAY! ACCELERATING TO FULL SPEED.
YOU CAN'T MEAN TO...
THUD
WOW, YOU'RE FAST!
BOY, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
GRAMPS —!!
CRASH
WE JUST WANT TO TALK!

NOW I UNDER-STAND WHY THERE ARE HANDICAP RAMPS.
THERE'S A DEATH MASK IN THE GROUND ...
DON'T SAY THAT! IT'S BAD LUCK!!
YOU OKAY?

THERE ARE SOME RARE MUSH-ROOMS GROWING WHERE HE WAS STANDING.
HE'S JUST A BOY WHO LOVES NATURE.
HEY, LOOK OVER HERE.


...THE WORLD ISN'T AS BEAUTIFUL A PLACE AS YOU WANT TO THINK.

STAND THERE AND LOOK UP AT THE ROOF.
YOU'LL REALIZE WHAT SUN-GLASSES BOY WAS REALLY AFTER.

THE ROOF ...?
AH!

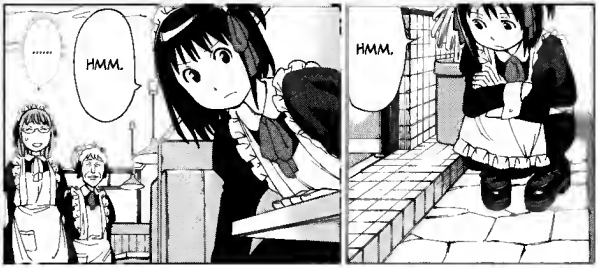
WHAT A NAUGHTY VIEW!
HE WAS PEEKING UP THE SKIRT OF THE NURSE WHO HANGS OUT THE BLANKETS TO DRY ON SUNNY DAYS.
HE WORE SUN-GLASSES TO SOFTEN THE CONTRAST BETWEEN LIGHT AND SHADOW.
.....
YOUNG LADY, YOU'RE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL TOMOR-ROW?
ONCE I'M DIS-CHARGED ...
...MAY I DROP BY THAT CAFE OF YOURS...?
THE NURSES WERE THE ONES ON A SCHEDULE, NOT THE BOY.
YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS BY WATCHING THROUGH THE WINDOW OF YOUR ROOM.

OH, WHY WERE YOU IN THE HOSPITAL ANY-WAY?
YOU'RE MORE THAN WEL-COME.
PENGUIN

I TRIPPED ON GARBAGE AND FELL DOWN.

SLAM
I'LL BE WAITING.
I CAN TELL YOU THE DETAILS OVER A CUP OF COFFEE.
PENGUIN

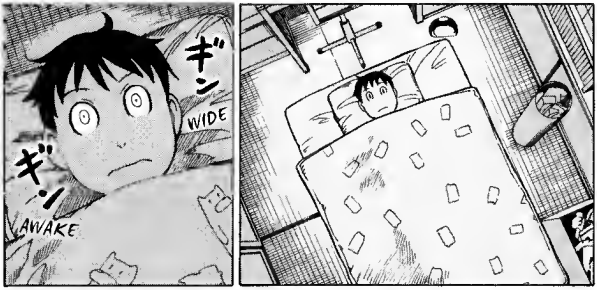
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

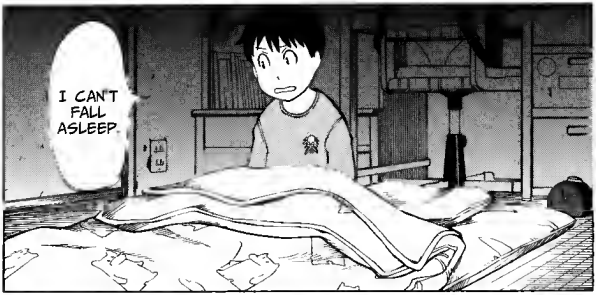


CHAPTER 15 / END

CHAPTER 16

NIGHT WALKER


ギン
WIDE
ギン
AWAKE

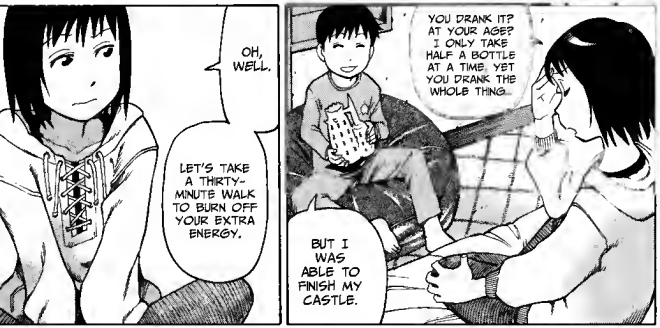

I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP

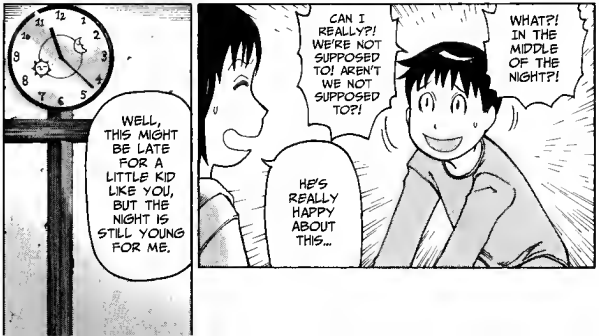
PROB-ABLY BECAUSE OF THAT

YAAAWN
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT I'LL TAKE A PISS AND GO TO BED.
カチャ
CLICK
...HOOOOOOH...
MY
GOD,
OH

KID'S ARE SUPPOSED TO GO TO SLEEP AT 9 AND WAKE UP AT 6.
WHY ARE YOU UP SO LATE?!
MAN— I'M IMPRESSED.
YOU MANAGED TO KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SCARED.
BESIDES, THIS IS PARTIALLY YOUR FAULT.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP. OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD IN YOUR ROOM.
HERE.
WHEN YOU'RE TIRED, HAVE SOME LIPOVITAN C!
HEY, DO WE HAVE A BOTTLE ABOUT THIS BIG? I NEED IT FOR A PROJECT.
FLASHBACK (4 HOURS AGO)

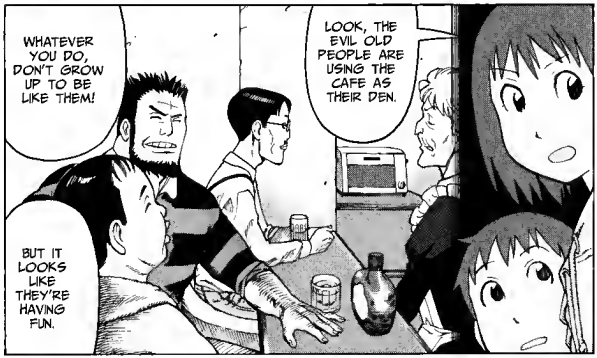
I NEED AN EMPTY BOTTLE ...
チャプ チャプ
SHAKE SHAKE
SIP
チビッ
IT TASTED WILD, BUT I DRANK IT ALL...
...SINCE IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO DUMP IT.

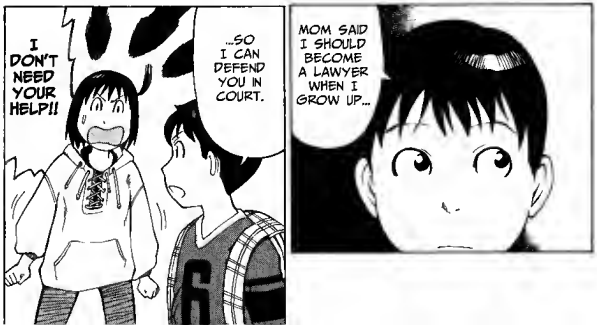

YOU DRANK IT? AT YOUR AGE? I ONLY TAKE HALF A BOTTLE AT A TIME. YET YOU DRANK THE WHOLE THING.
BUT I WAS ABLE TO FINISH MY CASTLE.
OH, WELL.
LET'S TAKE A THIRTY-MINUTE WALK TO BURN OFF YOUR EXTRA ENERGY.

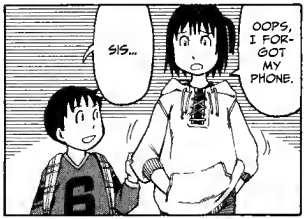

WHAT?! IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?!
CAN I REALLY?! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO! AREN'T WE NOT SUPPOSED TO?!
HE'S REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THIS...
WELL, THIS MIGHT BE LATE FOR A LITTLE KID LIKE YOU, BUT THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG FOR ME.

WHY ARE WE GOING OUT THROUGH THE BACK?
そー
SNEAK
MOM WILL HEAR US IF WE GO THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
ピキン
CLICK!
ANYWAY, WHAT'S IN THE BACK-PACK?
GEAR FOR OUR TRIP.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? A GAME?
IF THERE'S ONE NICE THING ABOUT THIS TOWN, IT'S THE LOW CRIME.
THE ENEMIES ARE STRONGER AT NIGHT.

OH, YOU WANT TO STAY AWAY AT NIGHT.
IS IT STILL OPEN?
HUH? THE LIGHTS ARE ON IN SEA-SIDE.


WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T GROW UP TO BE LIKE THEM!
LOOK, THE EVIL OLD PEOPLE ARE USING THE CAFE AS THEIR DEN.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.


I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!!
...SO I CAN DEFEND YOU IN COURT.
MOM SAID I SHOULD BECOME A LAWYER WHEN I GROW UP...



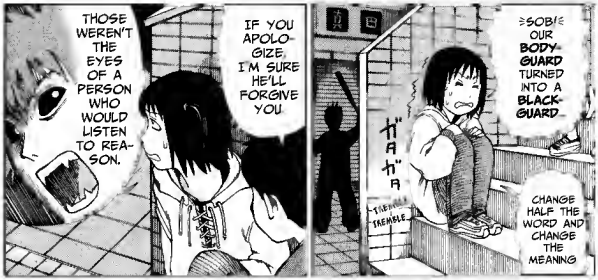
BUILDING: SANADA FRESH FISH

S.S....?
S.S.!
THERE'S A LOT OF JUNK...
I COULDN'T FIND ANY-THING ELSE TO COR-RESPOND WITH S.S....
...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THESE?
NOT THOSE?
HERE.
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT, YOU FOOL?! JUST USE THE NORMAL NAME!!
I'LL JUST GET IT MYSELF. S.S. IS THE ABBREVIATION FOR SLING-SHOT!

I'LL USE THIS TO SEND A SIGNAL TO THE WINDOW.
STRETCH
スチャ
ACORN AMMUNITION, RIGHT... I COULD GUESS WHAT YOU MEANT THIS TIME. GRADE SCHOOLERS ARE SO STUPID...
IT'S THE WRONG SEASON, SO I ONLY HAVE TWO AA.S LEFT!!
HUH!
FLING
I MISSED!
AH, THERE GOES MY PRECIOUS ACORN...
I THOUGHT IT WAS AN AA....
IF YOU PULL IT BACK TOO FAR, IT'LL SNAP!
キッ キッ キッ
STRETCH STRETCH STREETCH

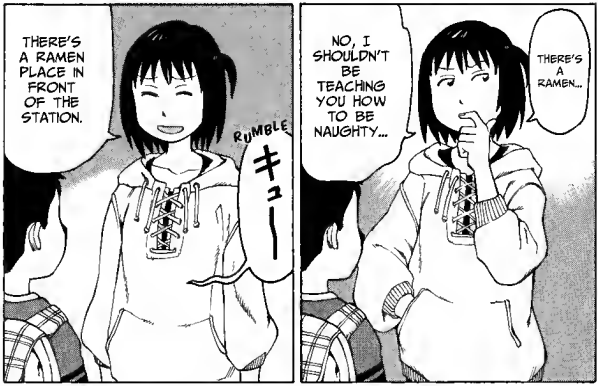
CLATTER
DO I HEAR PEOPLE TALKING OUT-SIDE...?
バスッ
SMACK
!!

WHO WAS THAT?!!
I'LL KILL YOU DEAD —!!

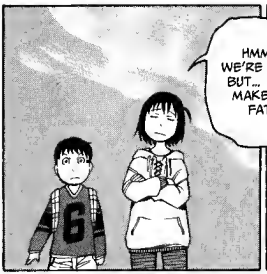

SOB!
OUR BODY-GUARD TURNED INTO A BLACK-GUARD
CHANGE HALF THE WORD AND CHANGE THE MEANING
IF YOU APOLOGIZE, I'M SURE HE'LL FORGIVE YOU
THOSE WEREN'T THE EYES OF A PERSON WHO WOULD LISTEN TO REASON.

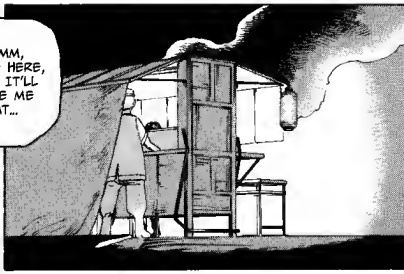
WELL... IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THAT SANADA-KUN IS IN LOVE WITH

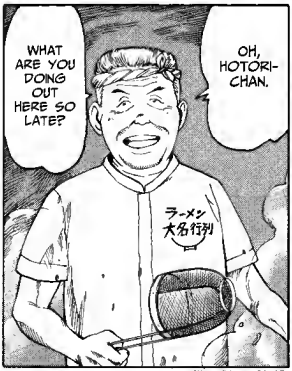
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO SANADA IN A YEAR OR TWO.
TAKERU, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HUH?
AM I HUNGRY...? I GUESS I AM.
グー
GROWL


THERE'S A RAMEN...
NO, I SHOULDN'T BE TEACHING YOU HOW TO BE NAUGHTY...
THERE'S A RAMEN PLACE IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
RUMBLE
キュー

WHAAAAAT? IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT... NO WAY!!
HE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY AGAIN.



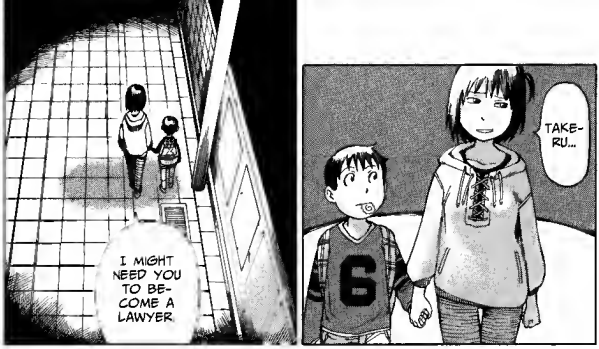




SHRT: RAMEN PARADE

I SEE. THAT'S GOOD. ...FOR A MOMENT, I WOULD FINALLY HAVE TO TAKE HER INTO CUSTODY.
DID I JUST HEAR YOU SAY SOMETHING ABSURD?! WELL, OLD MAN?!
防犯
ARMBAND: SAFETY FIRST
WHY ARE YOU LETTING HIM EAT RAMEN HERE?! GIVE HIM SOME LEFTOVER NARUTOS AND RUN HIM OFF!
ラーメン大名行列
GRRRR
OW!
NO, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL.
YOU MUST BE HEARING THINGS.
ラーメン大名行列
PINCH
ギュー
CLATTER
ガ
ラ
ッ

YOU'D BETTER NOT GET YOURSELF ARRESTED BEFORE I ARREST YOU!!
NO RESPONSE...
WHOOSH!
I GUESS SHE ISN'T AROUND.
...THAT I CAN HEAR.
SHE LOOKS MAD.
MUFFLED
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE LUPIN?!
I HAVE A FEELING THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ARREST HER ONE OF THESE DAYS...

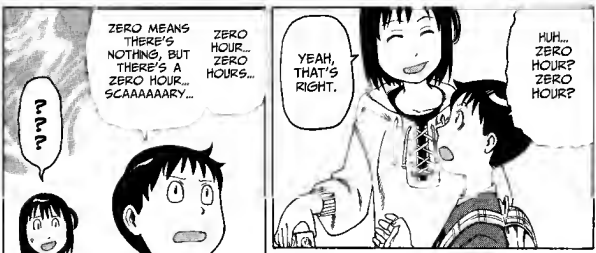

I MIGHT NEED YOU TO BE-COME A LAWYER.
TAKE-RU...

ONLY CONVE-NIENCE STORES ARE THERE TO ACCEPT US WITHOUT QUES-TIONS...
THAT'S WHY YOUNG PEOPLE HANG OUT HERE.
...SO, IN THE END...

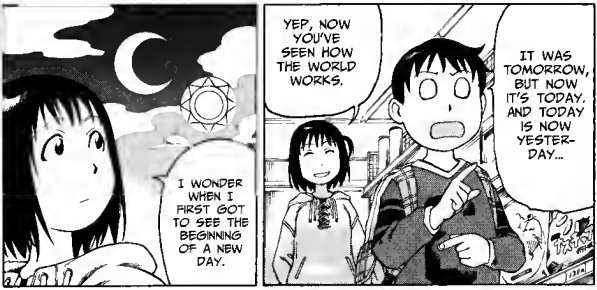
I GUESS YOU KIDS NEVER GO OUTSIDE AFTER DINNER.
IT'S COM-PLETELY DARK OUTSIDE THE STORE.
YOU KEEP BEING SUR-PRISED BY THE WEIRDEST THINGS.

DING DING DOOOONG!
TAKE-RU!
THIS IS YAMAMURA FROM THE CAMERA. LETTING EVERYONE KNOW THAT IT'S MIDNIGHT.
少年画報

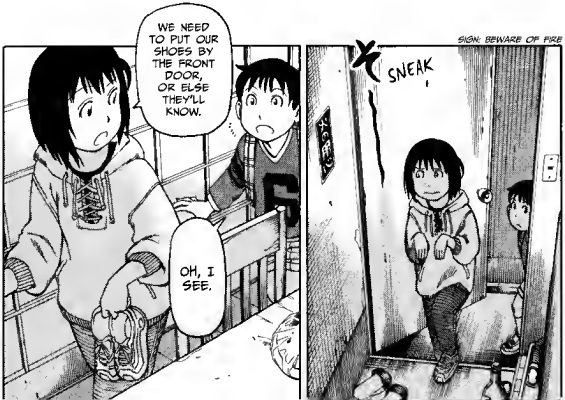
ZERO HOUR HAS COME AND GONE AND IT'S NOW MAY 1ST. THIS IS AMIGO KIRIHARA, YOUR NEXT DJ ON NIGHTHEAD RADIO.
パラッパ～ラ パッパラパァ
BADA BADA
BA-BADABAA


HUH... ZERO HOUR? ZERO HOUR?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
ZERO HOUR... ZERO HOURS...
ZERO MEANS THERE'S NOTHING, BUT THERE'S A ZERO HOUR... SCAAAAAARY...
H.H.H.

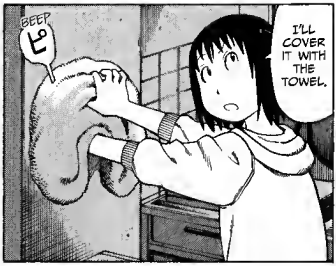
!?
IT WAS APRIL 30TH A MOMENT AGO, BUT NOW IT'S MAY 1ST.
YOU JUST WITNESSED YESTERDAY BECOMING TODAY.
ドン
SHOCK
6
5/1


I WONDER WHEN I FIRST GOT TO SEE THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DAY.
YEP, NOW YOU'VE SEEN HOW THE WORLD WORKS.
IT WAS TOMORROW, BUT NOW IT'S TODAY. AND TODAY IS NOW YESTER-DAY...

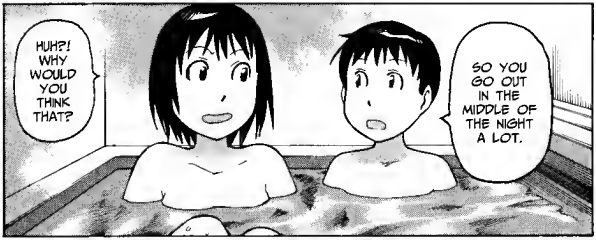
I SHOULD HAVE TRIED HARDER TO REMEMBER THE MOMENT...

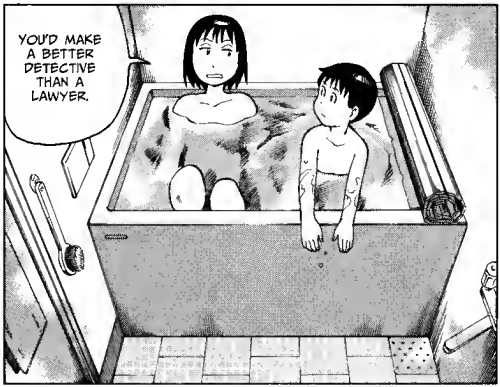

WE NEED TO PUT OUR SHOES BY THE FRONT DOOR, OR ELSE THEY'LL KNOW.
OH, I SEE.
SIGN: BEWARE OF FIRE
SNEAK

THE HEATER MAKES A LOUD BEEP.
YOU SHOULD TAKE A BATH BEFORE YOU GO TO BED.
IT WAS COLDER OUTSIDE THAN I EXPECTED.

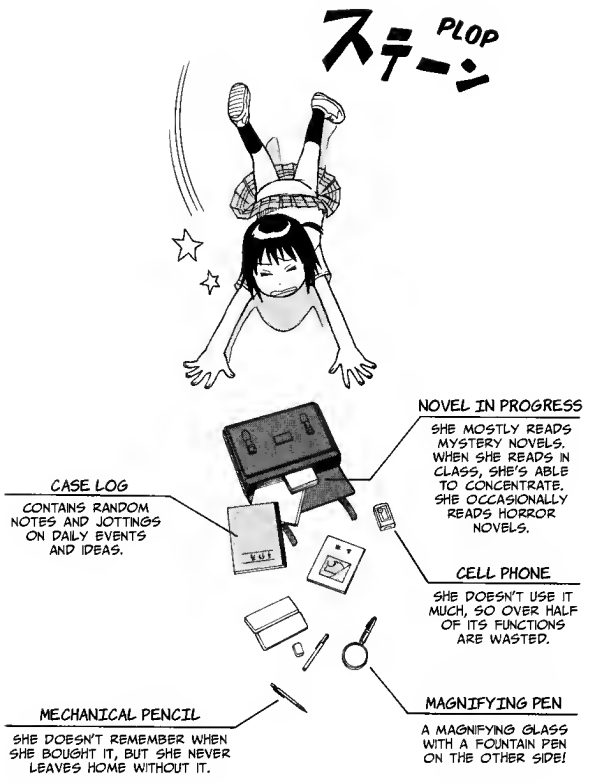

BEEP
I'LL COVER IT WITH THE TOWEL.

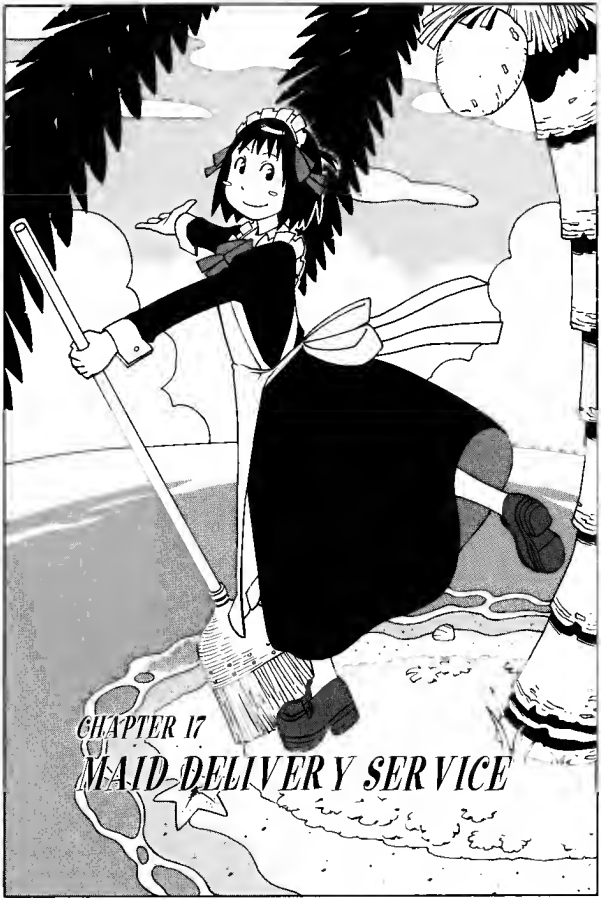
PROB-ABLY.
THINK YOU CAN FALL ASLEEP NOW?





CHAPTER 16 / END


ステーン
PLOP
NOVEL IN PROGRESS
SHE MOSTLY READS MYSTERY NOVELS. WHEN SHE READS IN CLASS, SHE'S ABLE TO CONCENTRATE. SHE OCCASIONALLY READS HORROR NOVELS.
CASE LOG
CONTAINS RANDOM NOTES AND JOTTINGS ON DAILY EVENTS AND IDEAS.
CELL PHONE
SHE DOESN'T USE IT MUCH, SO OVER HALF OF ITS FUNCTIONS ARE WASTED.
MECHANICAL PENCIL
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHEN SHE BOUGHT IT, BUT SHE NEVER LEAVES HOME WITHOUT IT.
MAGNIFYING PEN
A MAGNIFYING GLASS WITH A FOUNTAIN PEN ON THE OTHER SIDE!

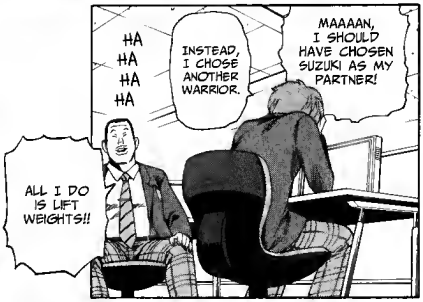

CHAPTER 17
MAID-DELIVERY SERVICE

YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO CREATE A WEBSITE THAT IS READY TO BE UPLOADED.
WEBSITE CREATION
, PERSONAL SITE, FICTIONAL COMPANY SITE
, INTRODUCE SOMETHING YOU LIKE
, LOCAL, SCHOOL, ETC.

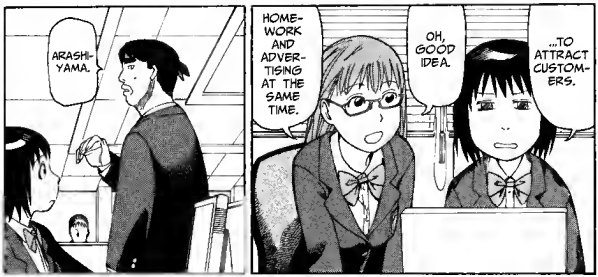
I'LL DO THE HTML SCRIPTING, SO FIND ME MATERIALS TO USE.
SORRY, SUZUKI.

COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND HERE?!
SHUT UP.
HEY!! IS UPLOADING LIKE UPROADING?
WHACK

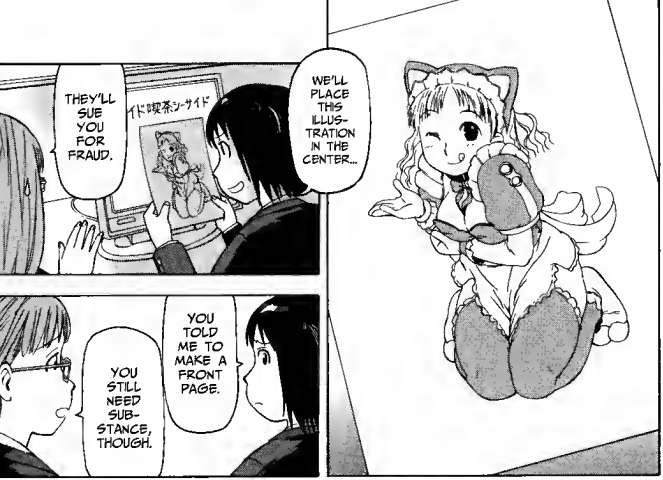
UUUGH!
GRRR...

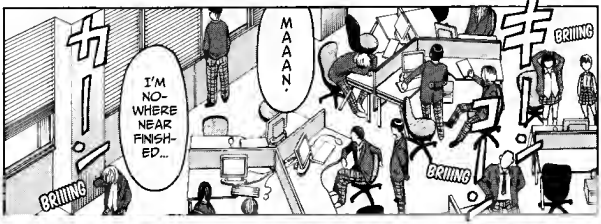

MAAAAN, I SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN SUZUKI AS MY PARTNER!
INSTEAD, I CHOSE ANOTHER WARRIOR.
HA HA HA HA
ALL I DO IS LIFT WEIGHTS!!

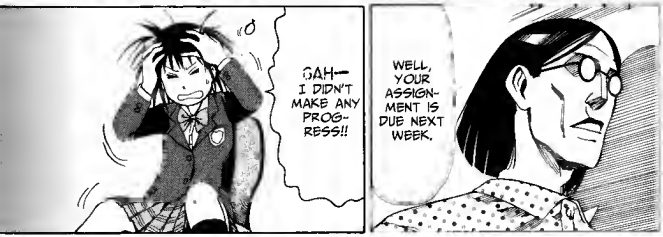
SCREEN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
メイド喫茶シーサイド
WE CAN USE THIS HOME-PAGE...
I FINALLY FINISHED THE TITLE.
JUST MAKE A FRONT PAGE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY SO HARD.


ARASHI-YAMA.
HOME-WORK AND ADVER-TISING AT THE SAME TIME.
OH, GOOD IDEA.
...TO ATTRACT CUSTOM-ERS.

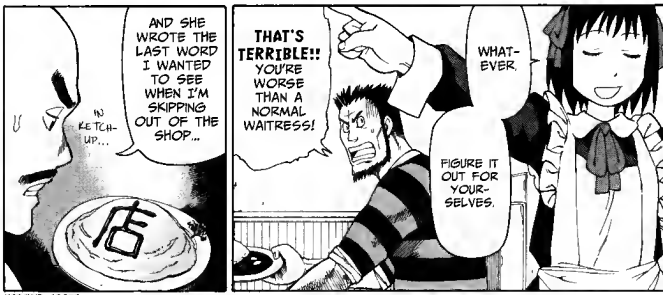
OH! MAR-VEL-OUS!!
AS PROMISED, HERE'S PICTURES OF TA-TSUN IN HER MAID OUTFIT
WOW— THAAANKS! IT'S PERFECT—
?
HERE'S THE ILLUS-TRATION YOU ASKED FOR.


WE'LL PLACE THIS ILLUSTRATION IN THE CENTER...
イド喫茶ンーサイド
THEY'LL SUE YOU FOR FRAUD.
YOU TOLD ME TO MAKE A FRONT PAGE.
YOU STILL NEED SUBSTANCE, THOUGH.


MAAAN.
I'M NOWHERE NEAR FINISHED...
BRIIING
BRIIING
BRIIING


WELL, YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS DUE NEXT WEEK.
GAH— I DIDN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS!!

SIGNS: LUNCHTIME COFFEE W150 / MAID CAFE SEASIDE


AND SHE WROTE THE LAST WORD I WANTED TO SEE WHEN I'M SKIPPING OUT OF THE SHOP...
NO KETCH-UP...
THAT'S TERRIBLE!! YOU'RE WORSE THAN A NORMAL WAITRESS!
WHAT-EVER.
FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOUR-SELVES.

KETCHUP: STORE

APRON: ARAI DRY CLEANING

DON'T MAKE THE MAID MAD!!
IDIOT! DAMN YOU, KOBU-HEI!
OKAY, YOU ALL GET TO SHARE THE BLAME BY ORDERING ANOTHER SALAD AND COFFEE.
SHE'S TURNING INTO THE GRANNY.
WHISPER
ぼそっ
ぴく

HEY, TA-TSUN-TSUN.
MY NICK-NAME'S EVOLVING... AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY.
DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER AT YOUR HOUSE?
I DO. MY LITTLE BROTHER MOSTLY PLAYS GAMES ON IT.
WEBSITE: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
メイド喫茶シーサイド
KON-SENPAI WAS SICK TODAY, SO I WAS GOING TO GO VISIT HER...
NO WAY! STUPID PEOPLE NEVER CATCH COLDS... SHE HAS THE WORST TIMING...
WHEN WE GET OFF FROM WORK, LET'S CONTINUE OUR HOME-WORK ASSIGNMENT.
SPEAKING OF COLDS, IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE THE LAST TIME I CAUGHT ONE. I THINK IT WAS BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
LIAR!
IT'S CALLED PERFECT ATTEN-DANCE...
NO WONDER HE RARELY EVER CATCHES A COLD.
YOU ALWAYS BRAG ABOUT NEVER HAVING TAKEN A VACATION DAY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

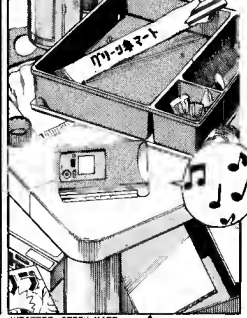
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING RIGHT NOW!
I'LL BE ADVERTISING THE CAFE!
AND SO, CAN I GO TO CANDIDATE #2, SANADA'S HOUSE...
...TO DO MY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT?
YOU'VE GOT CUSTOMERS RIGHT HERE!!
YAY!
...THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS ANYWAY. I GUESS IT'S OKAY.
HER BITE IS SO SHARP!!
TH-THAT'S SO MEAN!! THE GRANNY'S A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE.
EVERY WORD IS LIKE A KNIFE IN MY CHEST!!
...OH.
YOU'RE HERE EVERY DAY, SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE BOOTH DECORATIONS.

WAIT...!!
ARE YOU GOING TO SANADA-KUN'S HOUSE?
CLATTER
ガタン
HE HAS A COMPUTER.
.....
GO ON AHEAD.
トン
PAT
HEEEY! HEY, WAIT UP!
HUH? YOU'RE COMING? WHAT ABOUT KON-SENPAI?
WE CAN GO SEE HER TOGETHER AFTERWARDS.

SURE... WHEN?

HUH?

COM-PUTER ?



WRAPPER, GREEN MART

DISASTER AREA

ごちゃごちゃ

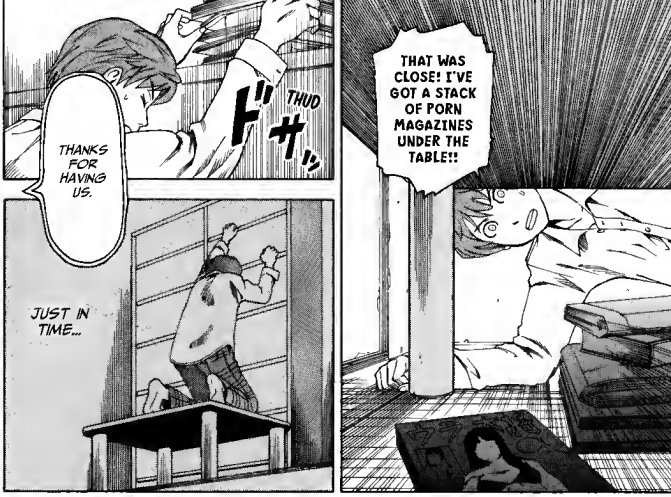
NOW?!

AND YAM CRO-QUETTES ARE THE CHEAPEST ONES!!

THE BUTCHER SHOP?! EVEN IF THEY STOP TO BUY CRO-QUETTES, THEY'LL BE HERE IN A FEW MINUTES!!

WE'RE GOING TO BUY YOU A GIFT. HOW DO YAM CROQUETTES SOUND? WE'RE IN FRONT OF THE BUTCHER SHOP RIGHT NOW.

WHAA-AAAT?! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO GREEDY? TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A POOR LITTLE GIRL...
HEY... GET ME SOME CUSTARD CREAM PUFFS FROM ROMANDE...
HUSTLE
バタバタ
ZHOOM
AH!
OKAY! I'VE BOUGHT MYSELF 20 MINUTES!!

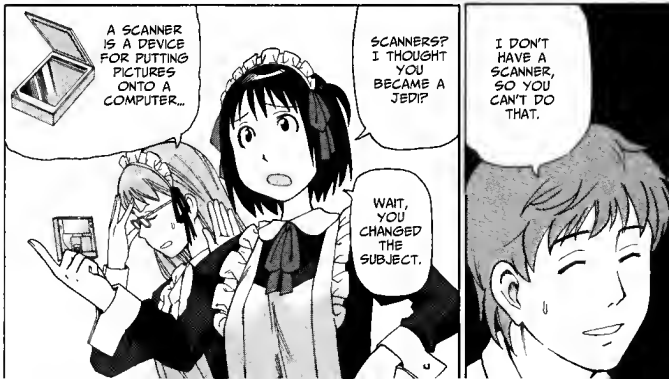

THAT WAS CLOSE! I'VE GOT A STACK OF PORN MAGAZINES UNDER THE TABLE!!
THUD
ドサッ
THANKS FOR HAVING US.
JUST IN TIME...

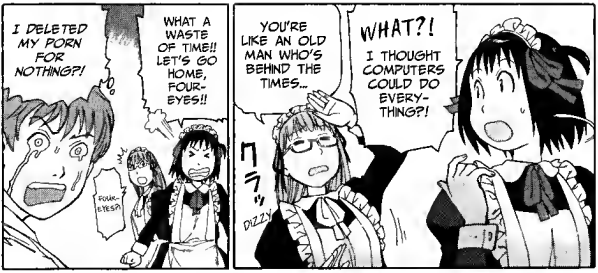
.....
AH.....
.....?
ええええ!?
THE COMPUTER SHE WANTS TO BORROW...
...IS FILLED WITH PORN I DOWNLOADED OFF THE INTERNET!!

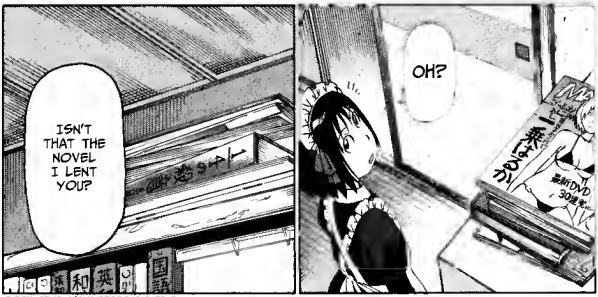
YOU'RE SUCH A PERV, SANADA-KUN!!
EEK—!!
WHAT'S THIS FOLDER?
カチカチッ
CLICK CLICK
DELETE THE DATA.
PORN
I CAN SEE IT HAPPEN-ING!!
NO CONTEST, OBVI-OUSLY...

I JUST DEFEATED THE DARK SIDE AND BECAME A JEDI, I GUESS?
SANADA, YOU LOOK KINDA TIRED.
WE'RE HERE!

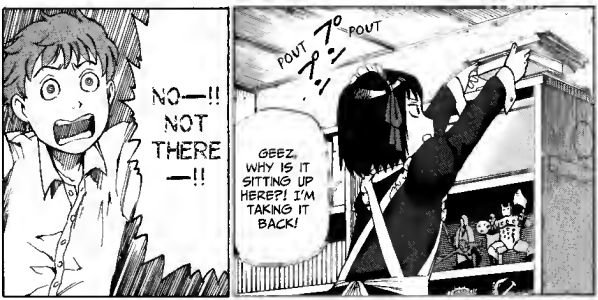
.....
..SO, I WANT TO PUT THIS PICTURE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF OUR WEB-SITE.
HMM?


A SCANNER IS A DEVICE FOR PUTTING PICTURES ONTO A COMPUTER...
SCANNERS? I THOUGHT YOU BECAME A JEDI?
WAIT, YOU CHANGED THE SUBJECT.
I DON'T HAVE A SCANNER, SO YOU CAN'T DO THAT.

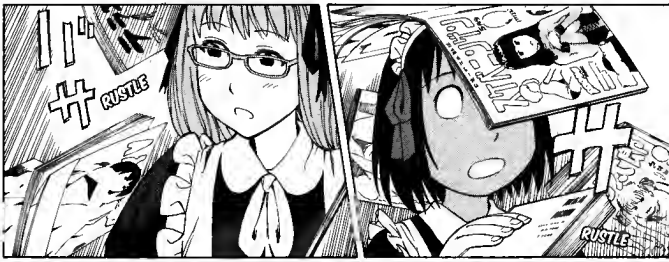

I DELETED MY PORN FOR NOTHING?!
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!! LET'S GO HOME, FOUR-EYES!!
FOUR-EYES?!
YOU'RE LIKE AN OLD MAN WHO'S BEHIND THE TIMES...
クラッ
DIZZY
WHAT?! I THOUGHT COMPUTERS COULD DO EVERY-THING?!



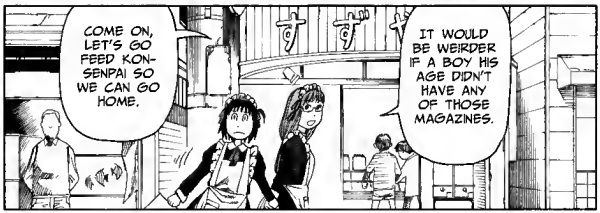
BOOK SPINE: V4 MURDEROUS INTENT

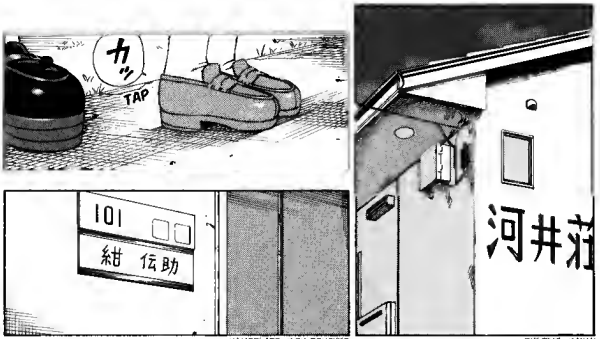


MAGAZINE: SUPER EROTIC



DESPI-CABLE!!
FROM NOW ON, I'M CALLING HIM SANADA EROYUKI.
SEE? EVEN IF YOU HAVE A SOLID FRONT PAGE, YOU CAN'T HIDE THE FLAWS INSIDE FOREVER.

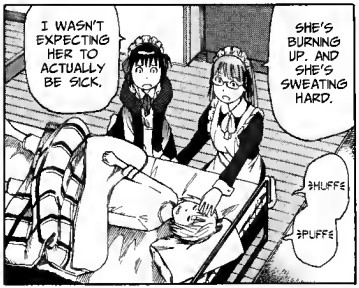




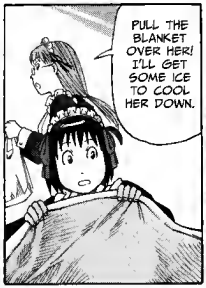
NAMEPLATE: KON DENSUKE

BUILDING: KAWAI

DING DONG
キンコン
101
KON DENSUKE?! SHE'S ACTUALLY A MAN! MEN ARE DANGEROUS! MEN ARE PERVERTS!
SHE DOESN'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT A GIRL IS LIVING ALONE HERE, SO SHE USED HER FATHER'S NAME.
...IS SHE ASLEEP?
CARELESS, CARELESS♪
CARE...
LESS-LESS-LE-LESS
DOOR'S UN-LOCKED
HOW CARE-LESS OF HER.
LET'S GO!
TA-TSUN IS SO COOL—
QUIET...
...DOWN!! SHE'S SICK!
BUT YOU WERE SINGING ALONG...

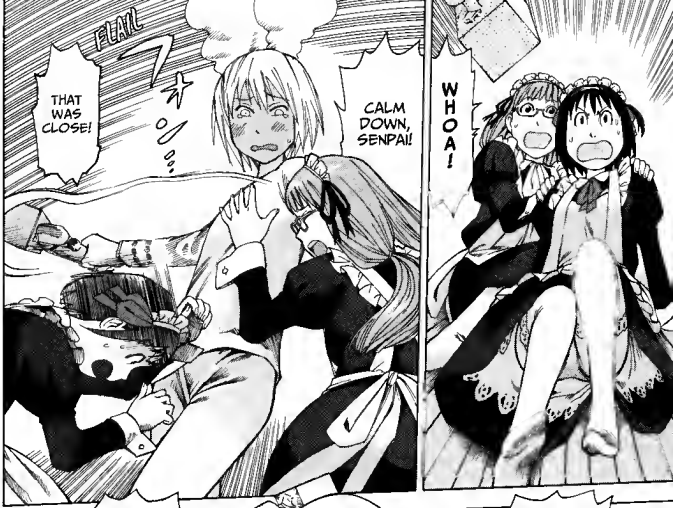

I WASN'T EXPECTING HER TO ACTUALLY BE SICK.
SHE'S BURNING UP. AND SHE'S SWEATING HARD.
HUFFF
PUFFF

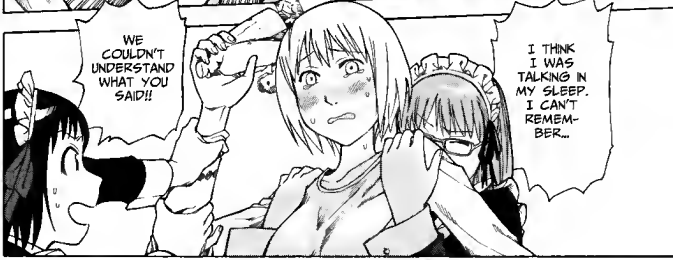
ICE

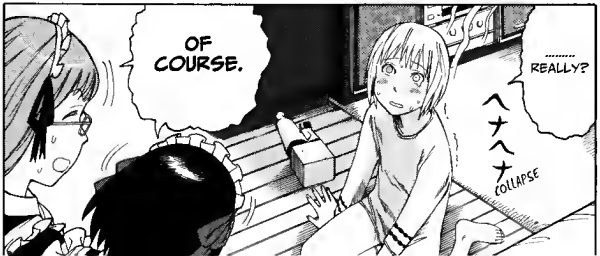

PULL THE BLANKET OVER HER! I'LL GET SOME ICE TO COOL HER DOWN.

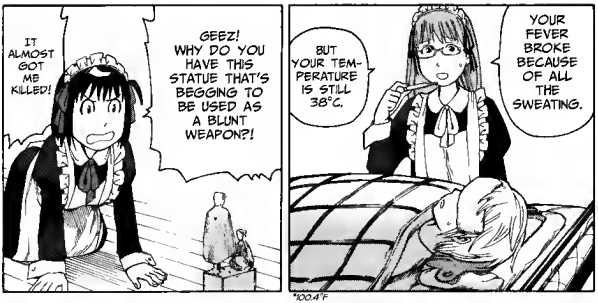
SHE LOOKS PRETTY ADORABLE WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING.
sob sob
I'M GONNA DIE.
MOM-MY...
IT HURTS ...
UGH...
HMM?

BLUSH
カー
SENPAI! YOU SHOULD STAY IN BED...!!
SHAKY
フラー
GLATTER
NOW ...
I HAVE TO KILL YOU...


WHOA!
CALM DOWN, SENPAI!
FLAIL
THAT WAS CLOSE!

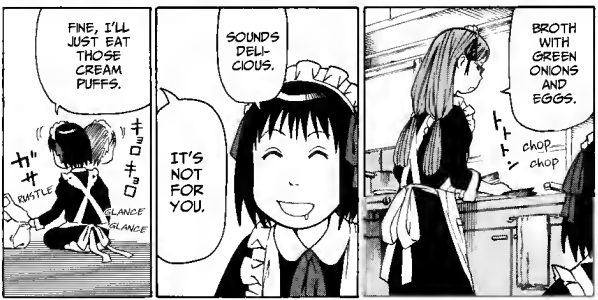

I THINK I WAS TALKING IN MY SLEEP. I CAN'T REMEMBER...
WE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAID!!


..... REALLY?
ヘナヘナ
COLLAPSE
OF COURSE.


IT ALMOST GOT ME KILLED!
GEEZ! WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS STATUE THAT'S BEGGING TO BE USED AS A BLUNT WEAPON?!
BUT YOUR TEMPERATURE IS STILL 38°C.
YOUR FEVER BROKE BECAUSE OF ALL THE SWEATING.

*100.4°F

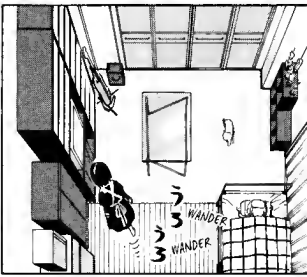
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE?
I'M GOING TO MAKE HER SOMETHING TO EAT, SO BE QUIET.
IT WAS PROBABLY A PRESENT.


FINE, I'LL JUST EAT THOSE CREAM PUFFS.
キョロキョロ
カサ RUSTLE
GLANCE
GLANCE
SOUNDS DELICIOUS.
IT'S NOT FOR YOU.
BROTH WITH GREEN ONIONS AND EGGS.
トトン chop— chop

THESE CREAM PUFFS ARE SO BITTER...
TODAY WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE DAY SANADA'S PORN WAS DISCOVERED BY TWO GIRLS.

DONE! SHOOT! I LEFT THEM IN BROYUKI'S ROOM FOR NOTHING!

SHE HAS ENOUGH CDS TO START HER OWN SHOP.


WANDER
WANDER

I DON'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE CDS.
SHE MUST REALLY LIKE MUSIC.

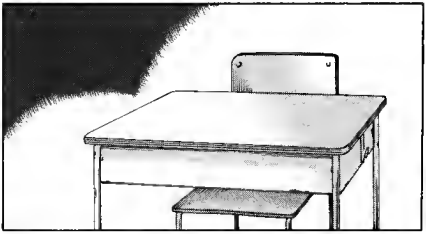
A GUI-TAR!
OH!
BUT THE STRINGS ARE THICKER AND THERE AREN'T AS MANY...
IS THIS A BEGINNER GUITAR?
BASS, PROB-ABLY.
YOU SHOULD LET EVERY BASS PLAYER IN THE WORLD PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE.
HMM? THERE'S NO SOUND.
OH, SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS BASS?
TWANG
ビィン

MAAAN...
YOU NEVER SHUT UP.
LOOK! THE AMP WASN'T TURNED ON
FLIP
プチ
THE SOUND COMES OUT FROM THIS BIG SPEAKER.
BADUM
ボム
プキ
WH-WH-WHAT?
ガクガク
SHAKE SHAKE
IT'S NOTHING. OKAY, YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW.
ドキ
POUND POUND
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TURNED IT ON...
GLARE
キーッ

IT'S REALLY LATE
OUR SHIFT'S ALREADY OVER
HEY.
WE'RE BACK.

HEY! YOU HAVEN'T GONE BACK TO WORK YET?!
NO WONDER GRAN IS WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS SHOPPING DISTRICT!
I WENT BACK ONCE BEFORE COMING HERE AGAIN.
HIROYUKI LOOKED REALLY DEPRESSED. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

.....
YOUR... YOUR SON HIROYUKI-KUN IS VERY UNHEALTHY.
DID THAT BRAT DO SOMETHING TO YOU?!
I WON'T LET HIM NEAR ME!!
:COUGH:
?
:COUGH:



MY OLD MAN WAS PRETTY SICK LAST NIGHT.

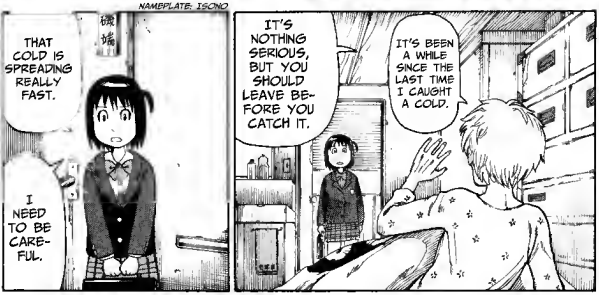
TA-TSUN DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY. MAYBE SHE CAUGHT SENPAI'S COLD.

I FEEL LIKE CRAP, SO I'M GONNA GO HOME AND SLEEP.

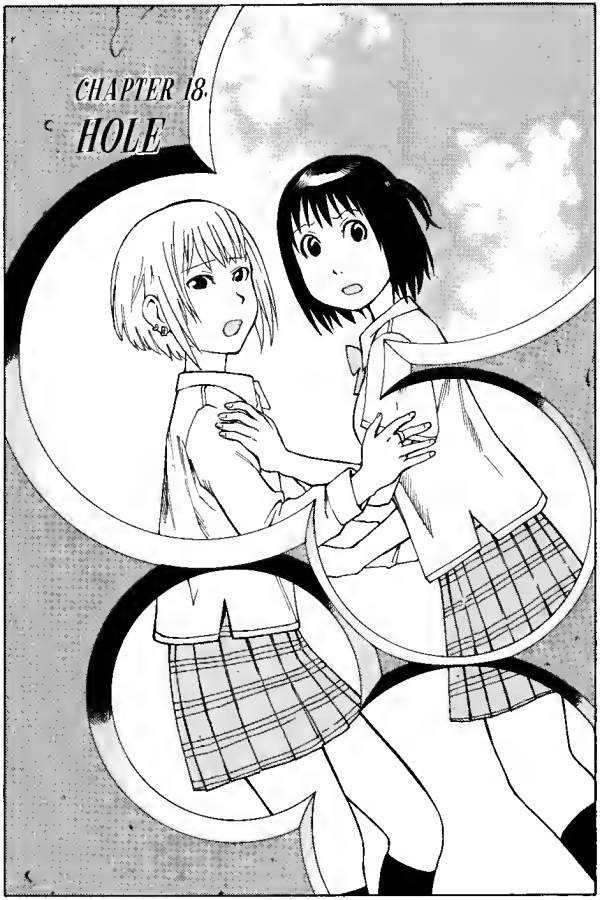
I GUESS THERE'S A COLD GOING AROUND?

SIGN: TEMPORARILY CLOSED

NAMEPLATE: ISONO

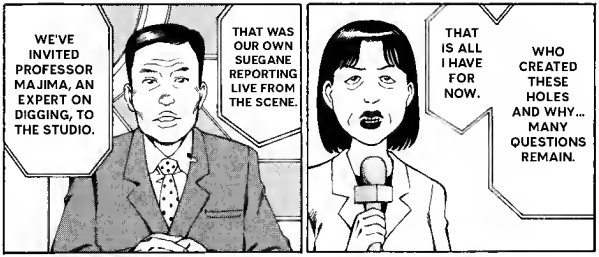

磯端
THAT COLD IS SPREADING REALLY FAST.
I NEED TO BE CARE-FUL.
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, BUT YOU SHOULD LEAVE BE-FORE YOU CATCH IT.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SNCE THE LAST TIME I CAUGHT A COLD.

CHAPTER 17/END


CHAPTER 18.
HOLE

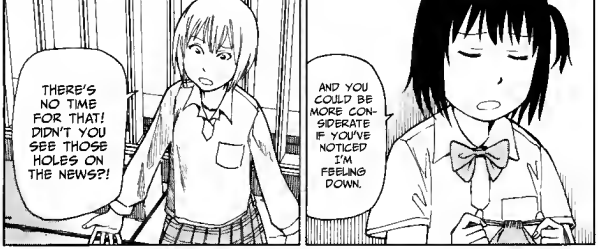
LATE LAST NIGHT, PEOPLE DISCOVERED THESE ROUND HOLES IN THIS EMPTY LOT.
YES, CAN EVERY-BODY SEE THIS?
IN FACT, THERE ARE PLANS TO BUILD AN APARTMENT COMPLEX HERE.
THERE HAVE BEEN ISSUES WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS PROTESTING THE NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX.
WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT THAT A WOMAN COULD BE HEARD SCREAMING LAST NIGHT.
AT THE MOMENT, THE CAUSE REMAINS UN-KNOWN.

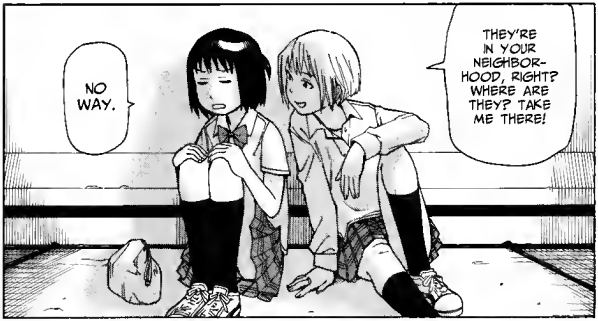
SIGN: APARTMENT COMPLEX / MARUKO RESIDENCES / ROOMS OPEN

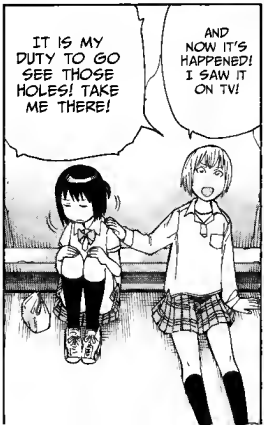

WE'VE INVITED PROFESSOR MAJIMA, AN EXPERT ON DIGGING, TO THE STUDIO.
THAT WAS OUR OWN SUEGANE REPORTING LIVE FROM THE SCENE.
THAT IS ALL I HAVE FOR NOW.
WHO CREATED THESE HOLES AND WHY... MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN.

TV: MYSTERIOUS HOLES IN...

DID YOU SEE THE NEWS THIS MORNING?!
OKAY! IT'S FINALLY COME!!
HUH? ORANGE ...?
SENPAI, YOU'RE ACTUALLY ORANGE TODAY.
HEY! I ASKED IF YOU SAW THE NEWS THIS MORNING!
YOUR PERIOD?
YOU LOOK PRETTY BLUE TODAY.
THE OPPOSITE OF WHEN YOU'RE BLUE... I GUESS.
NO...

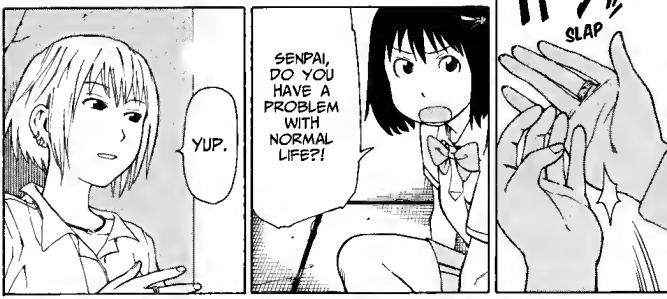

THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT! DIDN'T YOU SEE THOSE HOLES ON THE NEWS?!
AND YOU COULD BE MORE CONSIDERATE IF YOU'VE NOTICED I'M FEELING DOWN.

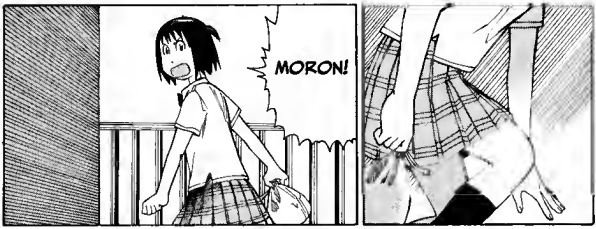

NO WAY.
THEY'RE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, RIGHT? WHERE ARE THEY? TAKE ME THERE!

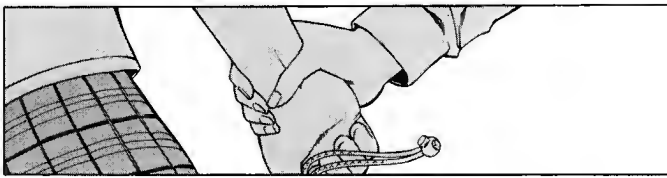

IT IS MY DUTY TO GO SEE THOSE HOLES! TAKE ME THERE!
AND NOW IT'S HAPPENED! I SAW IT ON TV!

HUH? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED THIS STUFF.
I SURE DO.

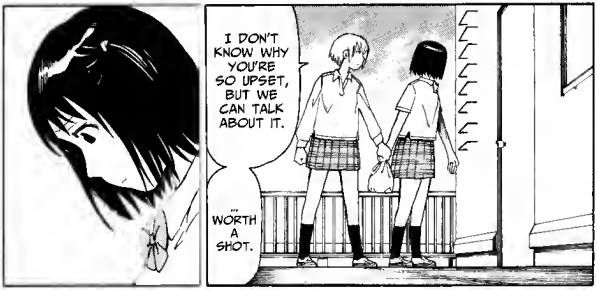
LIKE I WOULD WAKE UP WITH HORNS STICKING OUT OF MY HEAD...
I ALWAYS KNEW THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN ONE DAY.

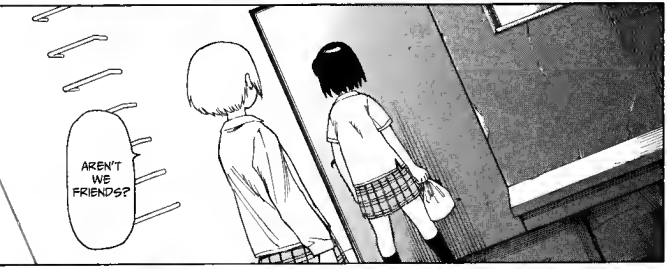

YUP.
SENPAI, DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH NORMAL LIFE?!
SLAP


MORON!

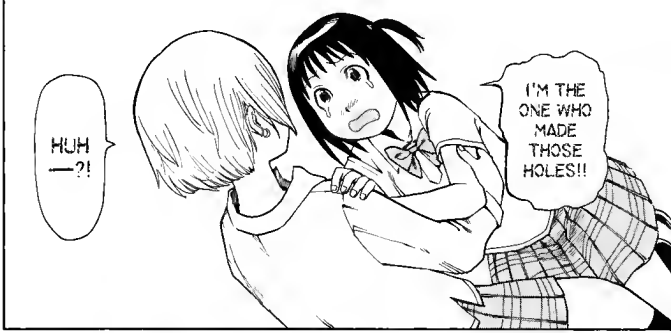


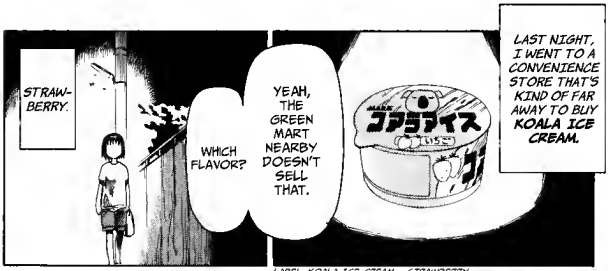
COME ON.


I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO UPSET, BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT.
...WORTH A SHOT.


AREN'T WE FRIENDS?

THAT EMPTY LOT IS BAD NEWS!!
SHEM-PAI...

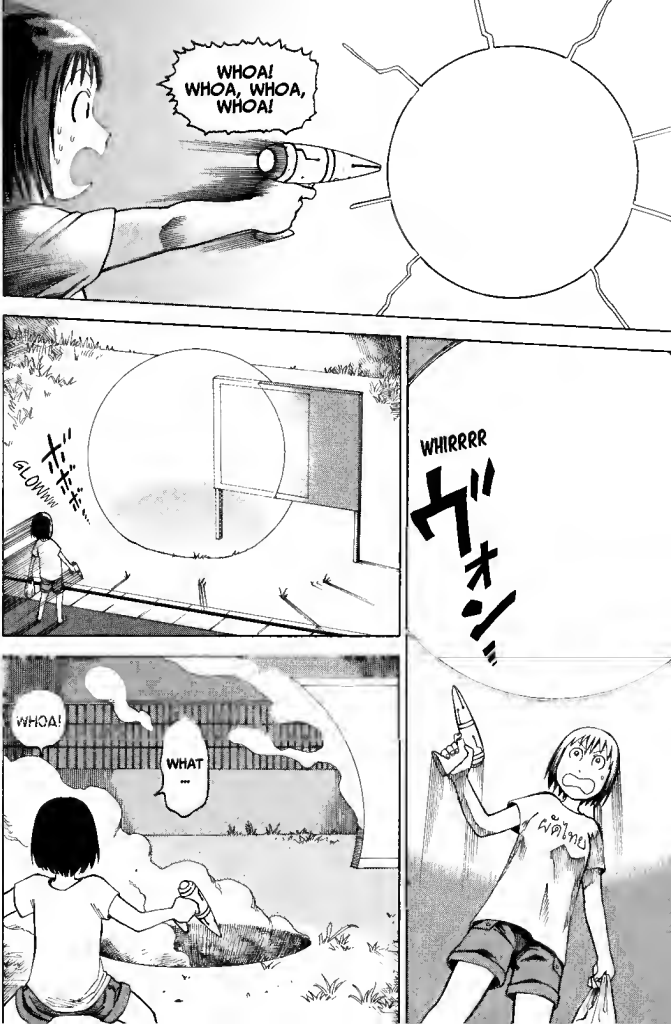



LAST NIGHT, I WENT TO A CONVENIENCE STORE THAT'S KIND OF FAR AWAY TO BUY KOALA ICE CREAM.
YEAH, THE GREEN MART NEARBY DOESN'T SELL THAT.
WHICH FLAVOR?
STRAW-BERRY.

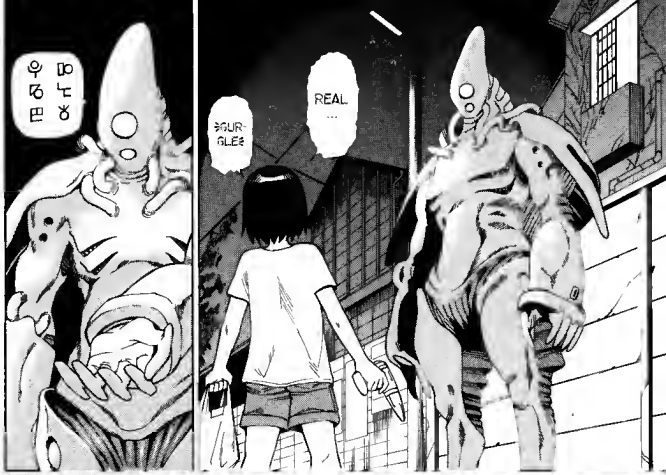
LABEL: KOALA ICE CREAM - STRAWBERRY

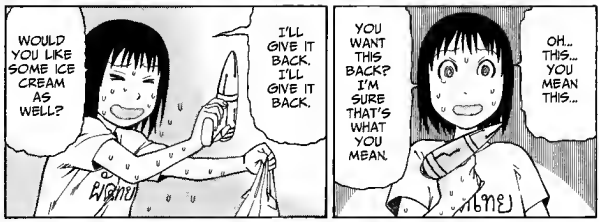
STUPID! VANILLA IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST!
JUST LISTEN TO MY STORY.
SO I WAS WALK-ING HOME.
WITH A STUPID LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
SHUT UP AND LIS-TEN!!
WHEN I WAS PASSING BY THAT EMPTY LOT...

A RAY GUN?
IT'S KINDA HEAVY FOR A TOY.
...WHAT'S THIS?
I DON'T SEE A TRIGGER OR MUZZLE.
MAYBE THIS IS A MOVIE PROP.
FLASH
BANG.
HUH?

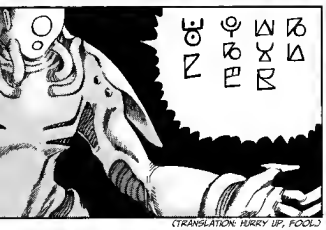

WHOA! WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
GLOWWW
WHIRRRR
WHOA!
WHAT ...

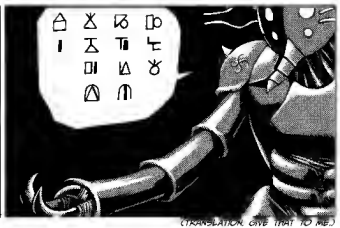
OH NO, OH NO, YOKO ONO!
NO NO NO NO!
TREMBLE
ガクガク
WHA?
TAP
スタッ

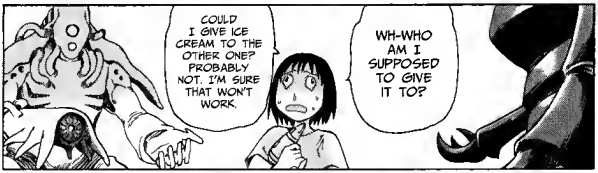

REAL...
GURGLE
(TRANSLATION: HAND IT OVER.)


OH... THIS... YOU MEAN THIS...
YOU WANT THIS BACK? I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'LL GIVE IT BACK. I'LL GIVE IT BACK.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ICE CREAM AS WELL?

IT'S SAID TO BE THE BEST ICE CREAM ON EARTH. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL LIKE IT, BUT PLEASE TRY SOME BEFORE IT MELTS...
?
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE


(TRANSLATION: HURRY UP, FOOL.)

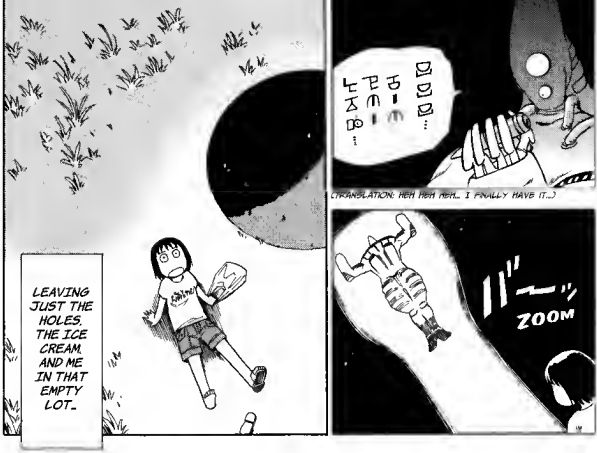

(TRANSLATION: GIVE THAT TO ME.)



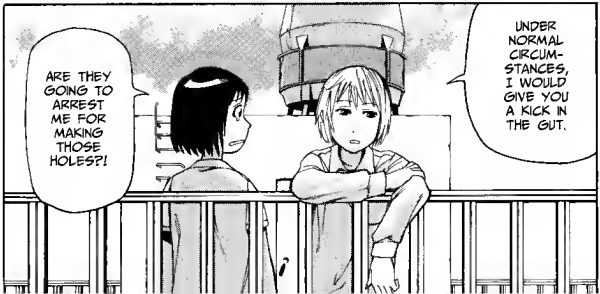
(TRANSLATION: LOOK OUT!)

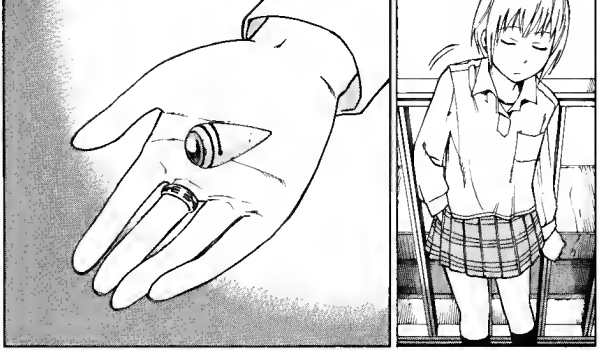
(TRANSLATION: UGH, THIS IS TERRIBLE.)

WHOA!
ZAP
ズ
ゾ
ゾ
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
(TRANSLATION: OWO)
スッ
SLIP
WHOA!!
BOOM
ボー


LEAVING JUST THE HOLES THE ICE CREAM AND ME IN THAT EMPTY LOT...
(TRANSLATION: HEH HEH HEH... I FINALLY HAVE IT...)
ZOOM

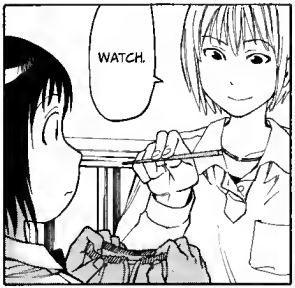
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE MY WILD AND FANTASTIC STORY?
SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED?

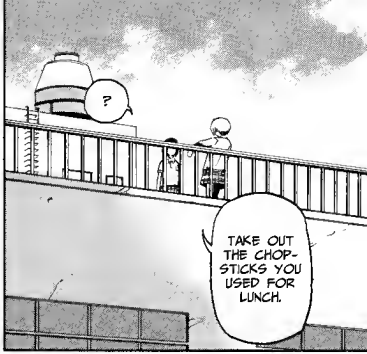

ARE THEY GOING TO ARREST ME FOR MAKING THOSE HOLES?!
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES, I WOULD GIVE YOU A KICK IN THE GUT.



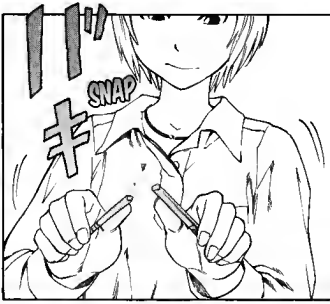
I FOUND IT YESTER-DAY.
NO WAY.
ARE YOU GIVING IT TO ME?
WHAT'S THIS?

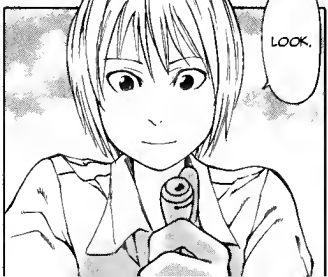
THIS ISN'T ANYTHING DANGEROUS.
THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S MADE FROM THE SAME MATERIAL AS THAT RAY GUN I FOUND YESTER-DAY...


WATCH.

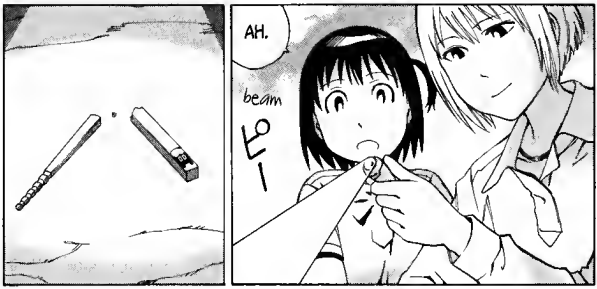

?
TAKE OUT THE CHOP-STICKS YOU USED FOR LUNCH.

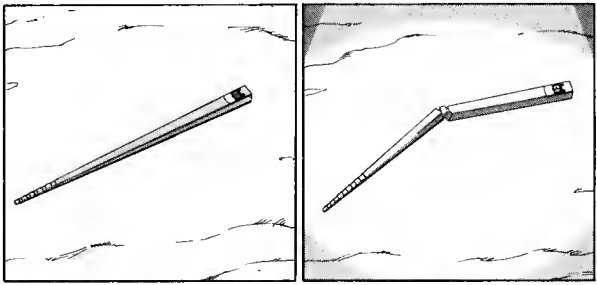
IT WON'T BE OKAY. DON'T MAKE MORE TROUBLE FOR ME!
NOW, NOW, NOW. IT'LL BE OKAY.

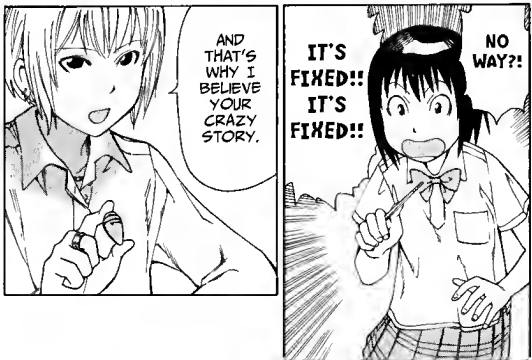

SNAP

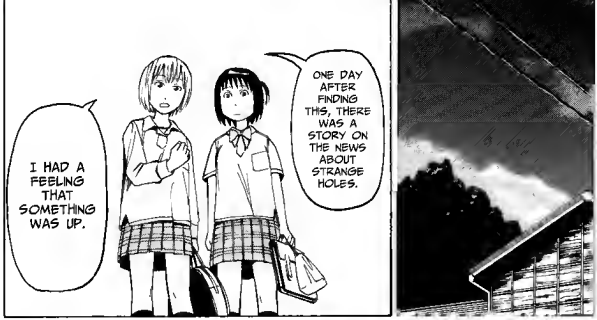

LOOK.

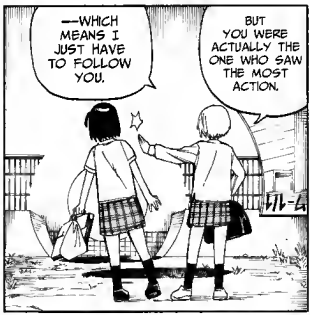
...IT SNAPPED IN HALF.
WHAT WAS THAT FOR, STUPID?! MOM'S GOING TO YELL AT ME!!


AH.
beam
ピー



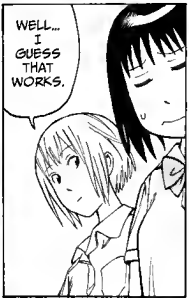

AND THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE YOUR CRAZY STORY.
NO WAY?!
IT'S FIXED!! IT'S FIXED!!


I HAD A FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS UP.
ONE DAY AFTER FINDING THIS, THERE WAS A STORY ON THE NEWS ABOUT STRANGE HOLES.


—WHICH MEANS I JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW YOU.
BUT YOU WERE ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO SAW THE MOST ACTION.

I'VE FINALLY ESCAPED ORDINARY LIFE!
I'M AT THE CENTER OF A BIZARRE EVENT...

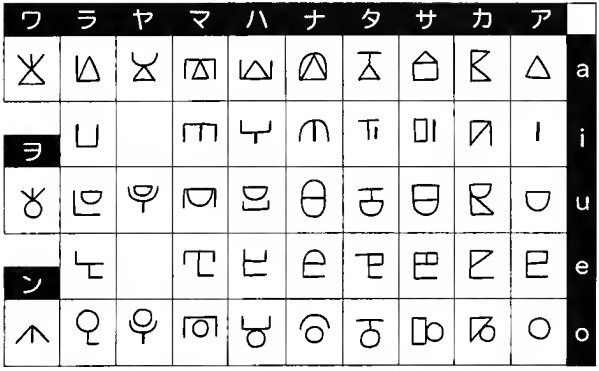
AT LEAST I GET TO PLAY A ROLE.

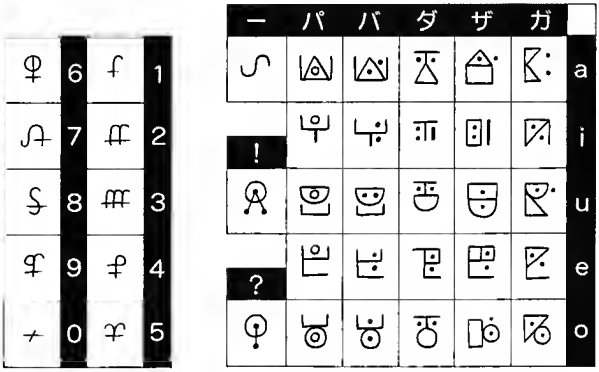

WELL... I GUESS THAT WORKS.

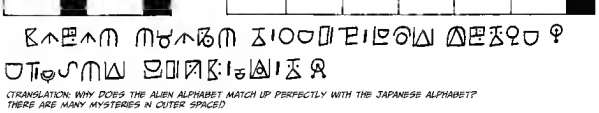
GLOWWW
ボ
ボ
ボ
GLOWWW
ボ
ボ
ボ
GLOWWW
ボ
ボ
ボ
AH! THE HOLES ARE DISAP-PEARING!!

Glowww
ボボボボ
WHEW, THAT'S GREAT.

ALIEN ALPHABET







(TRANSLATION: WHY DOES THE ALIEN ALPHABET MATCH UP PERFECTLY WITH THE JAPANESE ALPHABET? THERE ARE MANY MYSTERIES IN OUTER SPACE!)

POOR GUY

BY ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

TODAY, RICH GUY INVITED ME TO GO BUG-CATCHING WITH HIM.
POOR GUY, PLACE THAT BEETLE IN THIS GOLDEN CAGE.
AH! IT FLEW AWAY BECAUSE IT'S ONLY COVERED ON TWO SIDES!
SINCE IT'S MADE OUT OF GOLD. HA HA HA HA HA!
NEEDED TO SAVE MONEY!

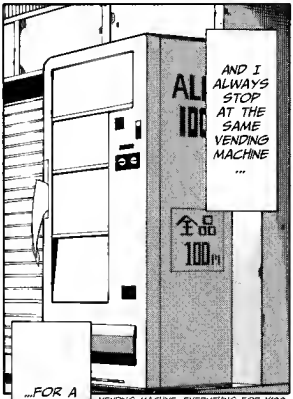
CHAPTER 19

SUMMER OF JOSEPHINE

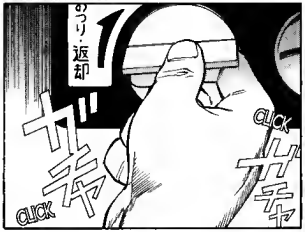
SCENE 1: MORNING OF ARASHIYAMA AYUMU

I BEGIN MY MORNING BY WALKING JOSEPHINE.
beep beep beep beep
ピ ピ ピ ピ
HELLO!! GOOD MORNING!!
EARLY IN THE MORNING, IT FEELS LIKE TIME IS FROZEN INSIDE THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...
I HEARD THERE'S GOING TO BE AN OUT-OF-SEASON TYPHOON PASSING BY US!!
IT'S GONNA POUR TONIGHT—!!
.....

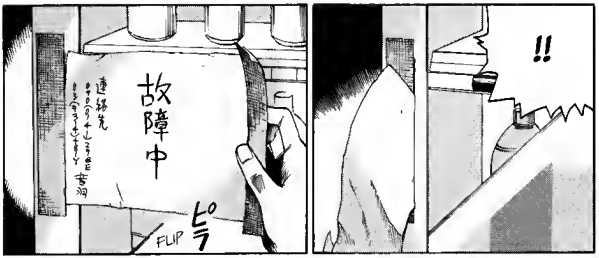
I ENJOY THE QUIET OF THE SHOPPING DISTRICT IN THE MORNING.
'SUP!!
HEARD THAT A TYPHOON'S COMING. I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE MY VEGETABLES DON'T GET BLOWN AWAY!!
WELL, IT WOULD TAKE SOME TREMENDOUS WINDS TO BLOW SOMETHING THIS HEAVY AWAY.
Y-YEAH... YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT...
PITTER PATTER
A〃A〃A〃
ON THE RIVERBANK...
...I ALWAYS SAY HELLO TO THE CHIRPY GIRL WHO'S JOGGING BY—



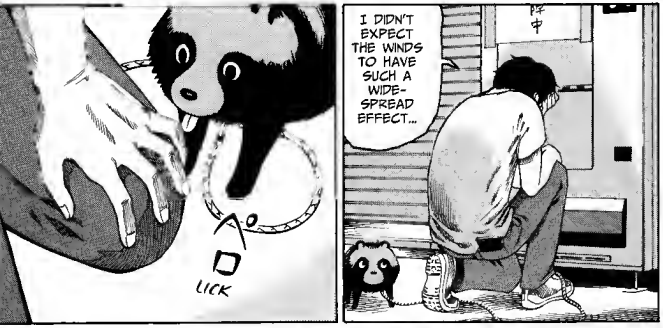
LABEL: RETURN CHANGE

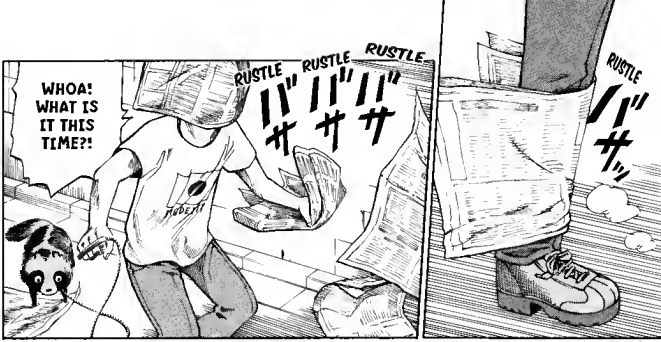


VENDING MACHINE: EVERYTHING FOR ¥100



SIGN: OUT OF ORDER




WHOA! WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
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RUSTLE
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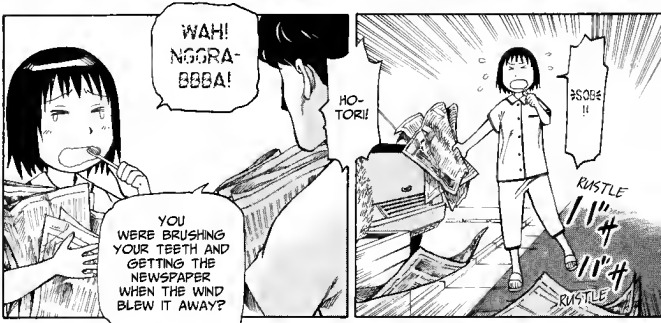
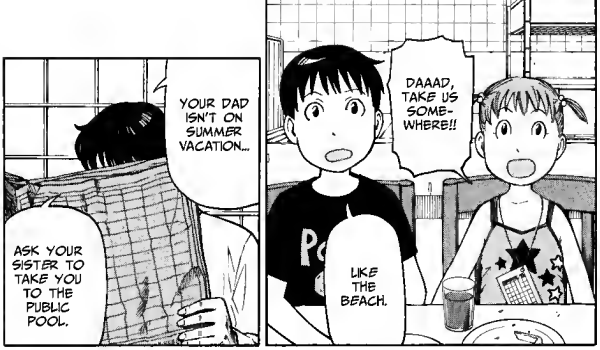

WAH! NOORA-BOBA!
YOU WERE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH AND GETTING THE NEWSPAPER WHEN THE WIND BLEW IT AWAY?
HO-TORI!
GSOBE !!
RUSTLE
バ
サ
バ
サ
RUSTLE

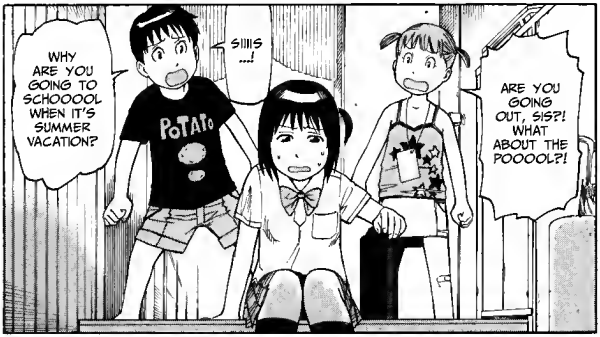
GAH.
IT SEEMS THAT AN OUT-OF-SEASON TYPHOON IS COMING.
WE MIGHT GET STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY RAIN.


DAAAD, TAKE US SOME-WHERE!!
LIKE THE BEACH.
YOUR DAD ISN'T ON SUMMER VACATION...
ASK YOUR SISTER TO TAKE YOU TO THE PUBLIC POOL.

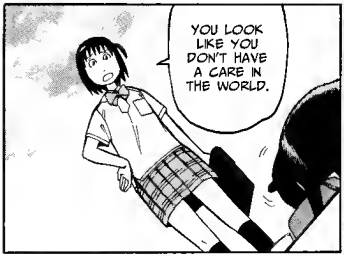
WHA-AAT—?!
STOP ACTING LIKE SPOILED BRATS!
HOTORI, CAN YOU WALK THE DOG FOR ME TONIGHT?

OUR KID'S ALL TAKE AFTER MY WIFE...
WHAAAT?! BUT I'M REALLY BUSY TODAAAAY!
IT APPEARS THAT JOSEPHINE IS THE ONLY ONE IN THIS HOUSE WHO'S ON MY SIDE.

SCENE 2: SUMMER OF ARASHIYAMA HOTORI



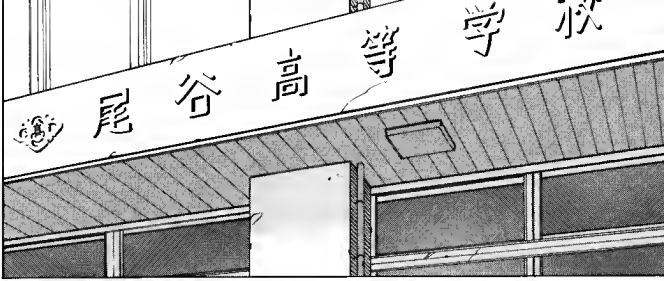
SQUISH
ギュー
I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL BECAUSE I WANT TO!!
SQUEEZE
ギュー


YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD.

もぐもぐ
munch munch

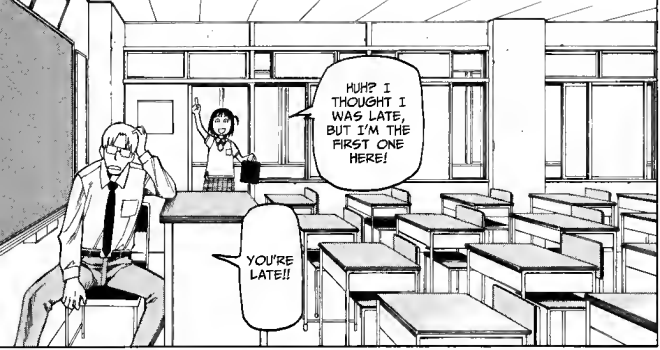
HERE, HERE.
SQUEAL
SQUEAL

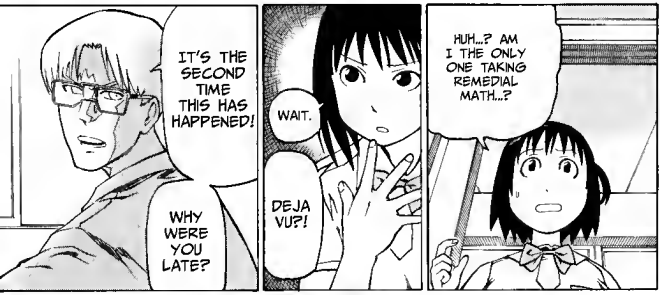
SLIIIDE
ズズズ



BUILDING: OYA HIGH SCHOOL

SIGN: REMEDIAL MATH


HUH? I THOUGHT I WAS LATE, BUT I'M THE FIRST ONE HERE!
YOU'RE LATE!!

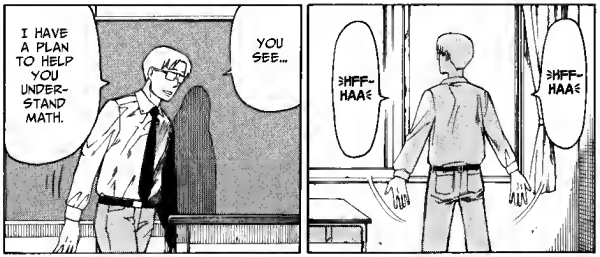

IT'S THE SECOND TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED!
WHY WERE YOU LATE?
WAIT.
DEJA VU?!
HUH...? AM I THE ONLY ONE TAKING REMEDIAL MATH...?

AND YOU WON'T ACCEPT IT... YEAH, YEAH.
...I'M TRYING FOR A POETIC EXCUSE.
THE DOG LOOKED TOO HAPPY.

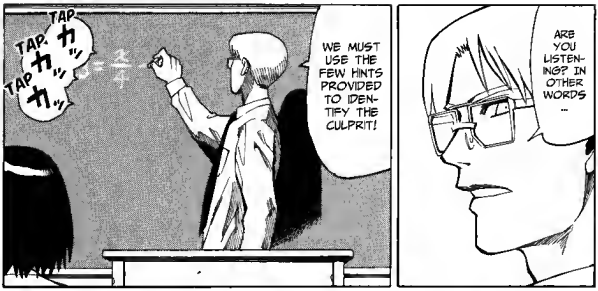
I JUST CHANGED THE NUMBERS AROUND.
THE QUESTIONS ON THE RETAKE WERE MOSTLY THE SAME AS THE ONES ON THE FINAL...
SO WHY DID YOU GET A LOWER SCORE?!
THIS IS YOUR FINAL EXAM!
16
PAPER: ARASHIYAMA HOTORI
THIS IS YOUR RETAKE!
4
PAPER: ...HOTORI

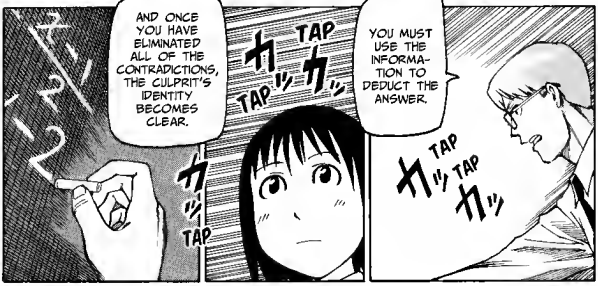
MY LUCK MUST HAVE RUN OUT...
I WAS JUST GUESSING THE ANSWERS ...
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?

AN INNOVATIVE IDEA THAT WOULD OVERTURN THE VERY FOUNDATION OF MATHEMATICS.
YOU ACTUALLY ADMITTED THAT YOU GUESSED ON ALL THE QUESTIONS...!!
STRESS キリ キリ キリ
GUESSING!



SIGN: SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE / TIME FLIES


TAP
TAP
TAP
WE MUST USE THE FEW HINTS PROVIDED TO IDENTIFY THE CULPRIT!
ARE YOU LISTENING? IN OTHER WORDS ...

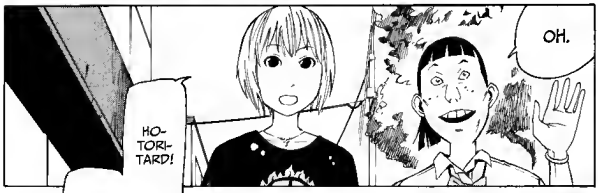

AND ONCE YOU HAVE ELIMINATED ALL OF THE CONTRADICTIONS, THE CULPRIT'S IDENTITY BECOMES CLEAR.
YOU MUST USE THE INFORMATION TO DEDUCT THE ANSWER.
TAP
TAP
TAP

BOARD: CULPRIT X = 2
...I MUST ADMIT THAT MY EXPLANATION STRETCHES THE IMAGINATION...
JUST LIKE IN A MYSTERY NOVEL!!
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE TRUTH!!

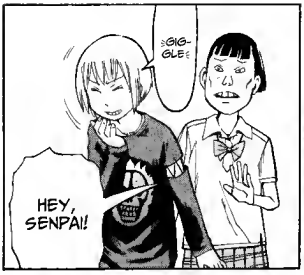
SLAM
I GET IT!!
HUH?!
MATH IS A MYS-TERY.
I'M ALL FIRED UP NOW!
... REALLY ...
buzz buzz
buzz buzz

OH, ARASHI-YAMA-KUN. HAVE YOU SOLVED THE MYSTERY?
INSPEC-TOR MORIAKI!
CLATTER
CLATTER
カラン
コロン
カラン
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
コロン
CLATTER
CLATTER
IN-SPEC-TOR!
THIS PARTICULAR CASE...
STOM-ACH HURTS!
AH! PAIN!
..HAS GONE COLD.
キリキリ
キリ

SCENE 3: JOSEPHINE



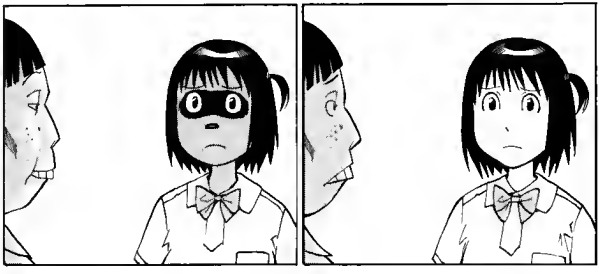
SIGN, AWNING: RAMEN


:GIG-
GLE:
HEY, SENPAI!

IS THAT YOUR DOG?

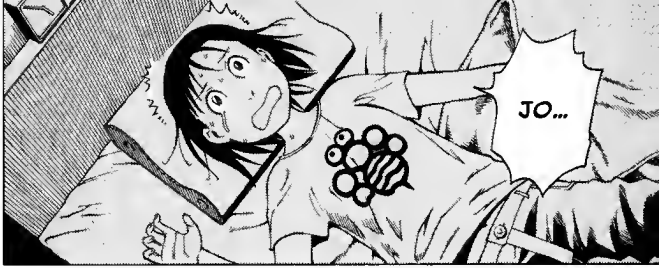
THAT'S A TANUKI! SHE'S WALKING A TANUKI!!

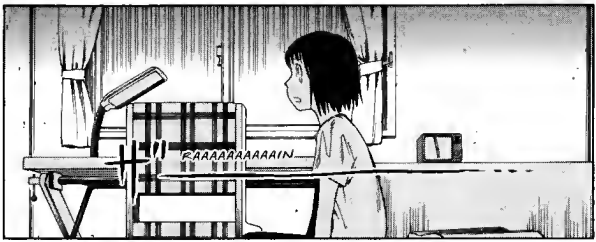
YOU SHOULDN'T LAUGH AT SOMEONE ELSE'S PET!
BUT... JUST LOOK...!



GUFFAW
ぷっ
TANU...
ヒク
ヒク
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
A TANUKI ...
WALK-IN@ A TANUKI ...
FLASH
ATTACK, JOSE-PHINE!!
BITE 'EM!!
SNORT
ゲラゲラ
JOSE-PHINE?!
JOSE-PHINE!!
WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY?! THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF YOU!
PANT PANT
BOOM

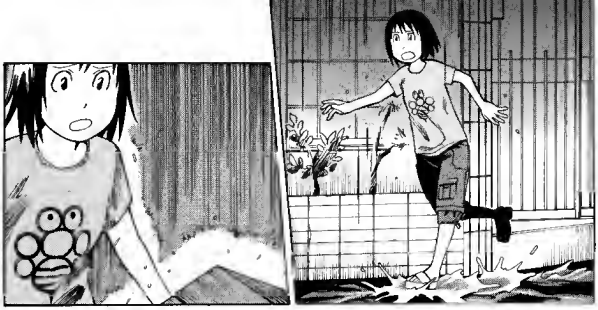
...?
HO-TORI...
WAKE UP, HOTORI.
APPAR-ENTLY, I'M A TANUKI, NOT A DOG.
I'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN.
THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
HAVE A GOOD LIFE.
JOSE-PHINE?!
JOSE-PHINE!
JOSE-PHINE!!

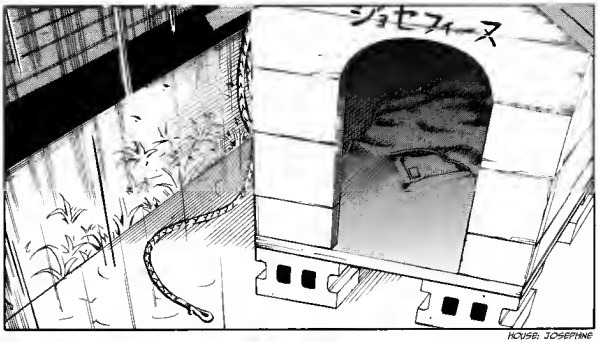

JO...


RAAAAAAAAAIN

RUMBLE
ゴロ。
FLASH
ピカ
JOSE-
PHINE!!

DASH
ドタタ





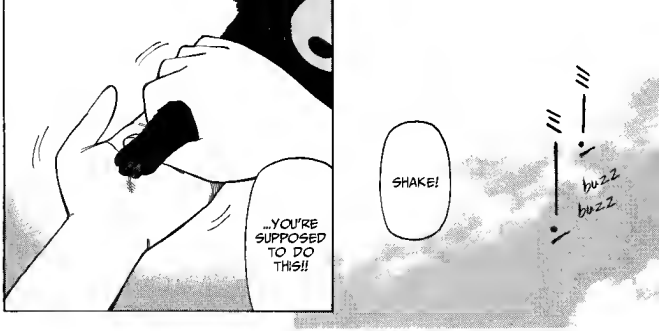
HOUSE: JOSEPHINE

WENT BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN...
JOSE-PHINE...

JOSE-PHINE!

JOSE...
...PHIIINE!!!

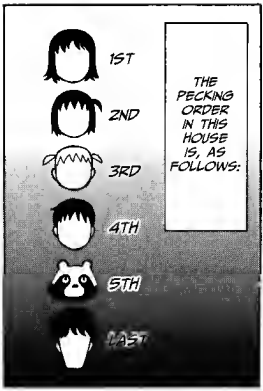
TAKARAZUKA: AN ALL-FEMALE MUSICAL THEATER TROUPE KNOWN FOR ITS MELODRAMATIC PERFORMANCES.


...YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS!!
SHAKE!
buzz buzz

...THEY'LL CALL YOU A TANUKI AGAIN!
IF YOU DON'T LEARN A TRICK OR TWO...

OKAY.
NOW SHAKE!

LICK
ペロ
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
IT'S HOPELESS...
IT'S LIKE I'M HITTING MY HEAD AGAINST THE WALL...!
I DON'T THINK SHE'LL EVER DO IT...
AFTER LIVING HERE FOR A WHILE...
I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING.



CHAPTER 19/END

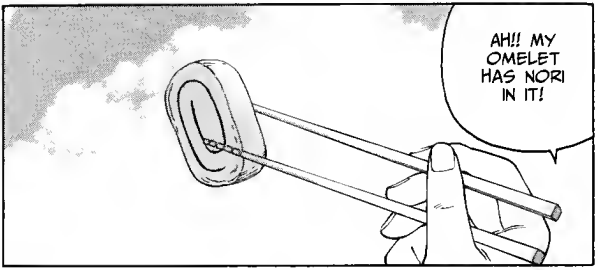
AFTERWORD

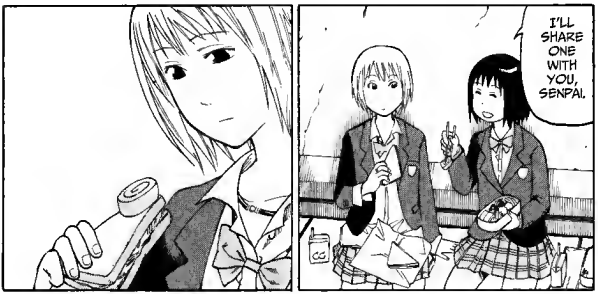
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WRITE A STORY USING DEATH AS A THEME. IN DEATH, EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED IN YOUR LIFE AND ALL OF YOUR MEMORIES ARE GONE, JUST LIKE THAT.
MOST PEOPLE HAVE ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF AN AFTERLIFE, ANOTHER PLACE WHERE WE GO AFTER WE DIE—"MY GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER ARE THERE, I'LL BE JOINING THEM ONE DAY," ETC.
THIS VOLUME FEATURED A COUPLE OF CHAPTERS ABOUT A HYPOTHETICAL TOWN IN THE AFTERLIFE. WHAT DID YOU THINK?
THE TOWN CONTINUED TO FUNCTION AFTER HOTORI WAS GONE.
I TRIED TO SHOW THE SHOPPING DISTRICT WITHOUT HOTORI, AND I TRIED TO SHOW THE CHARACTERS IN HEAVEN—SUCH AS THE OFFICIAL, THE GUIDE, AND JOHANNES—IN A VERY ORDINARY LIGHT. IF POSSIBLE, I HOPE THAT YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN IMAGINATION TO FILL IN THE AREAS I WASN'T ABLE TO FULLY EXPAND UPON...

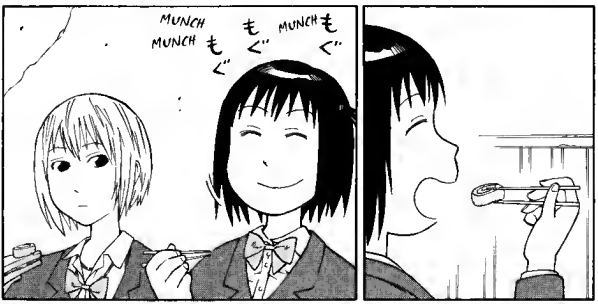
OCTOBER 1, 2006
石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

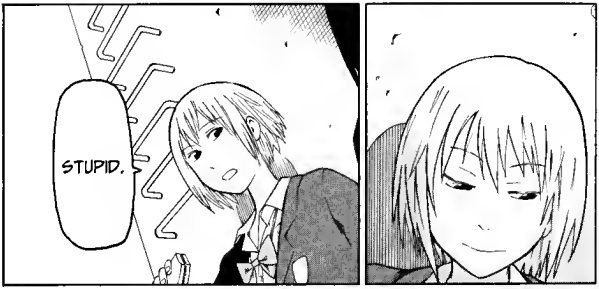
SPECIAL THANKS

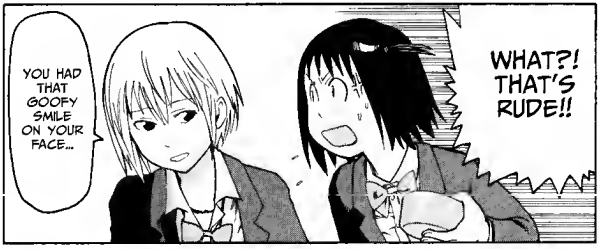
GUEST SATOU TOSHIYUKI
ASSISTANT TSUNAMINO YUU
HELPER ARI

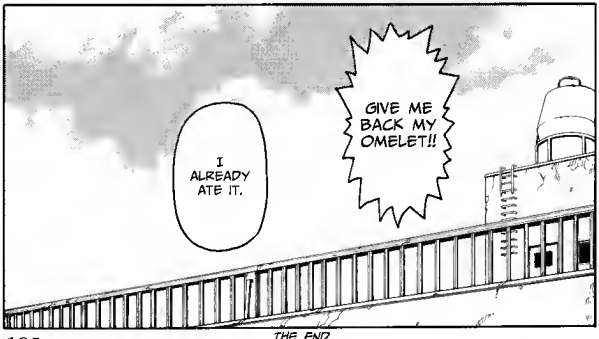

AH!! MY OMELET HAS NORI IN IT!


I'LL SHARE ONE WITH YOU, SENPAI.


MUNCH もぐ
MUNCH もぐ
MUNCH もぐ


STUPID.


YOU HAD THAT GOOFY SMILE ON YOUR FACE...
WHAT?! THAT'S RUDE!!


I ALREADY ATE IT.
GIVE ME BACK MY OMELET!!

THE END